# SC not divided on Kuratong case, says justice

STORY ON PAGE A2

## Priest sex offenders are few, says bishop

**By Carlito Pablo**

ONLY 1.6 percent of the country's over 4,000 priests are engaged in sexual misconduct, according to Bishop Socrates Villegas, spokesperson of the Archdiocese of Manila.

Villegas said 5 percent of the clergy can be classified as wholly exemplary, while 90

PRIEST/A16

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

## PDI journalists released on bail

**By Alcuin Papa**

EIGHT editors, columnists and reporters of the Philippine Daily Inquirer were ordered released on bail yesterday by a judge of a Makati Regional Trial Court in connection with the libel suit filed against them by Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

The libel suit stemmed from an INQUIRER

PDI/A4

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Saturday, May 11, 2002 ★ 76 pages / 8 sections / vol.17 / no. 152 P15 website: www.inq7.net

# 'Don't drag the House down'

## *Solon nixes P3-billion more pork from other departments*

**By Juliet L. Javellana and Armand N. Nocum**

**THE CHAIR of the powerful House appropriations committee yesterday appealed to his colleagues fighting over control of next year's P34.8-billion infrastructure budget not to "drag the entire House down."**

In making his appeal, Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. registered opposition to the proposal of Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. to maintain the present sharing scheme for the infrastructure budget of the Department of Public Works and Highways and tap an "equalization fund" from other departments.

"I am not quarreling with Congressman Pichay," Andaya told the INQUIRER in a phone interview. "But this is a wrong precedent that will open the floodgates for more pork (barrel)."

Andaya said that "once you say yes" to Pichay's proposal, there would be no stopping congressmen and senators from going after the infrastructure funds of, say, the Departments of Social Welfare and Development and of Justice.

"It will disrupt the operations of the departments," he said. "We might as well take over those departments."

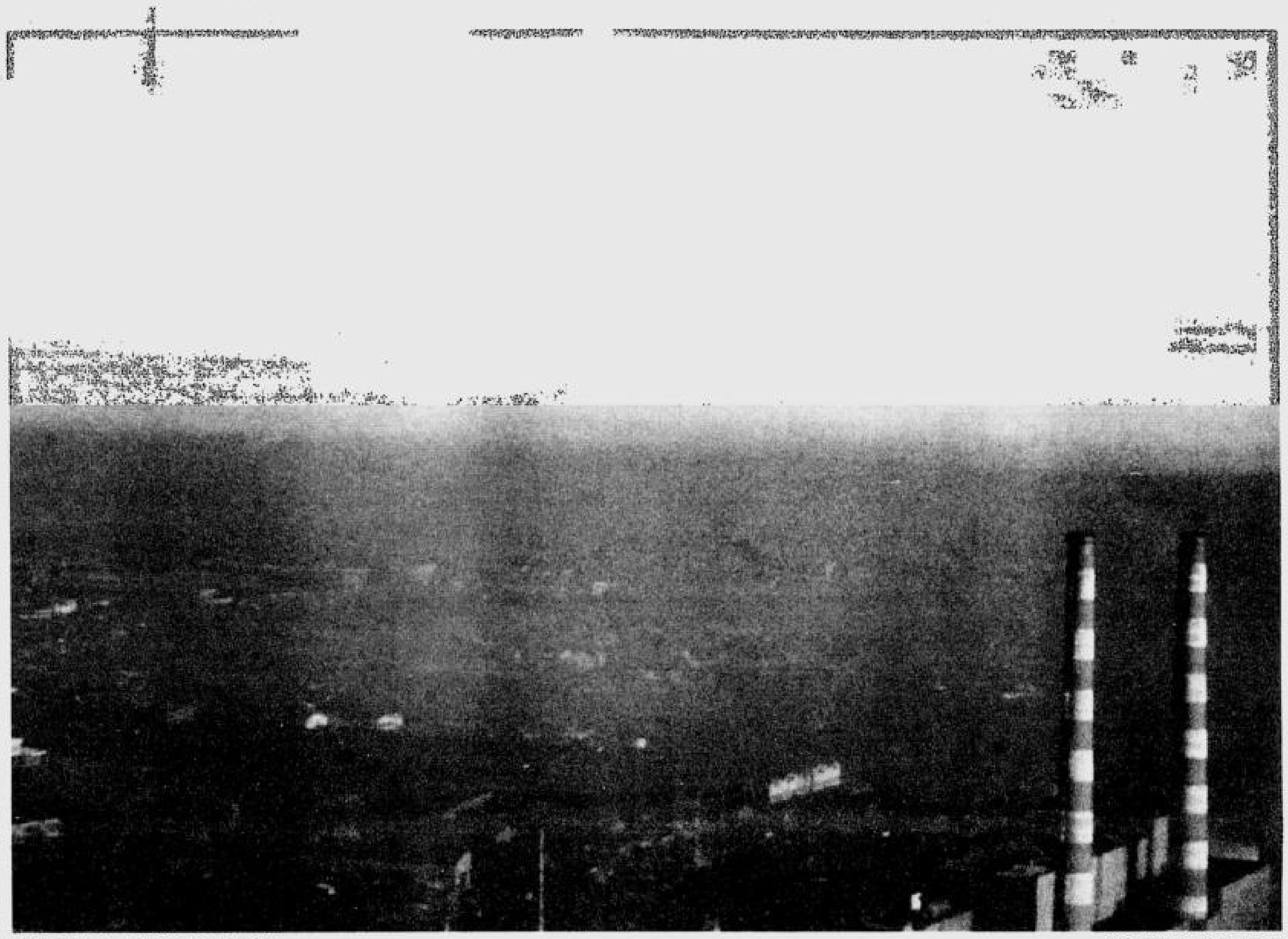
A congressman from the Visayas, who asked not to be named, said many of his colleagues were annoyed at Andaya "for putting this (pork row) in public."

He said some of his colleagues had criticized Andaya for not holding the stormy hearing last week in a closed-door session.

But he said Andaya should actually be credited for implementing a transparent system of dividing the infrastructure fund.

"He is the first chairman of the appropriations committee to look for transparent ways to ensure that all districts will have a fair share of the fund," the Visayan con-

DON'T A4



JOSE MANUEL ROMUALDEZ

**7:15 A.M., APRIL 23, 2002**
**The view from Fort Bonifacio is the gloom of pollution descending upon a city rousing from its slumber to face another day that could take one's breath away.**

# Villar formula: Use excess power, pay less

**By Rocky Nazareno and Ronnel W. Domingo**

CONSUMERS can use up more electricity without incurring additional cost under a formula being pushed by Senate President Pro Tempore Manuel Villar.

"This is, by far, the most practical solution I can think of," Villar said in a statement.

In a bill seeking amendments to the Power Reform Act, Villar noted that only 7.5 megawatts out of the total 12.8 megawatts produced annually by the National Power Corp. (Napocor) and independent power producers (IPPs) are actually used. But consumers are made to pay for the excess capacity.

Under Villar's proposal, both residential and industrial consumers will be allowed to access the unutilized energy, which they are already paying for through the purchased power adjustment (PPA).

"Instead of letting unused energy go to waste, a mechanism must be created whereby consumers can have the convenience of using up this added energy without having to pay more,"

VILLAR/A4

ERIK ARAZAS

**HERRERA Street in Makati was renamed Vicente A. Rufino on Friday in recognition of the late tycoon's pioneering developments in Makati. At the unveiling rites were, from left: Makati Councilor Francisco Lichauco who authored the resolution renaming the street together with Councilor Ricardo Javier; Bel-Air Barangay Captain Constancia Lichauco; Cesar Campos, president of the Makati Commercial Estate Association; daughters of Vicente, Marixi Rufino-Prieto and Maria Paz Tanjangco. Behind are Vicente's sons, Charlie and Macario. *(Story on Page A23.)***

# 115 solons seek probe of repression of leftists

**By Christine Avendaño**

AS MANY as 115 congressmen want to find out whether an official policy of political repression is being implemented against the party-list group Bayan Muna.

In a resolution, the congressmen noted that the Ecumenical Movement for Justice and Peace (EMJP) had been able to document 64 cases of human rights violations affecting 67 Bayan Muna members and supporters from Feb. 21, 2001, to April 8, 2002.

Most of the violations supposedly took place in Southern Tagalog, Eastern Visayas, Western Visayas, Central Luzon and the Bicol region, and 71 percent were allegedly committed by members of the military, police and Citizens Armed Force Geographical Units.

A number of the documented cases involved the killings of 17 Bayan Muna members and supporters.

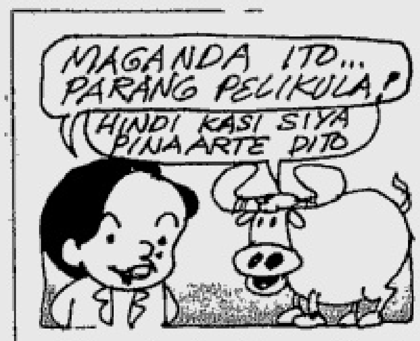
The lawmakers, led by Bayan Muna Representatives Satur Ocampo, Crispin Beltran and Liza Maza, are seeking a House inquiry on the "alarming rate" of killings, disappearances and other human rights violations committed against the perceived leftist group's members and supporters allegedly by the police and military in the past year.

They have filed House Resolution No. 538 asking the chamber's committee on civil, political and human rights to conduct the inquiry.

Ocampo, who is president of Bayan Muna, told the INQUIRER that apart from the proposed investigation, he was to meet with the Department of Justice on the matter.

He said he was also seeking a dialogue with military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus and Maj. Gen. Dionisio Santiago,

115 SOLONS/A16


MAGANDA ITO... PARANG PELIKULA!
HINDI KASI SIYA PINAARTE DITO

## *Gloria's 'tampo': Can't seem to do anything right*

**By Carlito Pablo and Dona Pazzibugan**

THE "INA ng Bayan (Mother of the country)" is nursing a slight case of *tampo* (hurt), according to her adviser Conrado "Dodie" Limcaoco.

The reason is that President

GLORIA/A16

# Bethlehem church standoff is over

BETHLEHEM—Dozens of Palestinian militants and civilians filed out of Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity on Friday under a European-brokered deal to end a 39-day armed standoff at one of Christianity's holiest shrines.

The breakthrough opened the way for a troop withdrawal from Bethlehem, the last Palestinian-ruled city still occupied by the Israeli army under a military offensive in the West Bank.

With heavily armed Israeli soldiers ringing historic Manger Square and camera crews from around the world looking on, the first to leave the besieged church were 13 men on Israel's most-wanted list. Some looked haggard and tired.

One by one they boarded a bus taking them to Israel's Ben-Gurion airport from where a British military aircraft was waiting to fly them to Cyprus, the first stop in their exile.

The agreement reached after numerous false starts called for the 13 militants—described by Israeli authorities as "senior terrorists"—to be held briefly on the Mediterranean island and later transferred to third countries.

Another 26 militants were loaded onto a bus headed for the Palestinian-ruled areas of the Gaza Strip, and more than 100 people including clerics, civilians and Palestinian security men who had remained inside also started leaving the church.

"The sanctity of the church has been preserved," said Hanna Nasser, mayor of the Palestinian-ruled city. "Enough is enough. I think it is time now to

BETHLEHEM/A16

NAGKAKAISA SILA!

# Supreme Court not divided on Kuratong case, says justice

By Michael Lim Ubac

**THE HIGHEST court in the land is not divided over the controversial Kuratong Baleleng case, a Supreme Court justice said yesterday.**

Speaking on condition of anonymity, the justice said the high court being a collegial body would render a majority decision on whether to reopen the case or not.

The controversial case involves murder charges against Sen. Panfilo Lacson and 37 other ex-police officers who stand accused of the alleged summary execution of 11 Kuratong Baleleng criminal gang members.

The case has since last year been awaiting an SC decision on a petition by the government to revive the 11 murder cases against Lacson and the 37 others.

### Ping's fears

Lacson, who asked the court in an urgent motion on May 3 to resolve the case immediately, expressed apprehension that the delay may "cast doubt on the propriety" of the SC deciding on the issue.

He suggested that the decision had been deliberately delayed because of the recent entry into the high court of the appointees of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The justice brushed aside Lacson's claim, saying there had been no delay in resolving the case.

The parties concerned should wait for the ruling before insinuating anything, he said.

For one, Lacson's motion has yet to be calendared by the court, he said.

"We have not read it because it was not in the calendar during the last en banc meeting on May 7. But we have been given copies," he said.

The justice denied that the magistrates have been engaging in bitter discussions and debates on the issue.

As in all other cases heard by the high court justices, the discussions are heated "but very, very civil," he said.

"We cannot say that the house is divided if there is no voting yet (on the issue)," said the justice who denied reports that the petition to revive the case had been put to a vote on April 11.

On Thursday, Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. told reporters the justices had scheduled deliberations on the petition on May 28.

Davide did not give a categorical answer on whether the high court justices would put the issue to a vote on that day.

"That will be the consequence of the deliberations," he said.

In his petition, Lacson said there had been rumors that the court was getting ready to hand down a final decision on the case.

He said this had "fueled speculation that the delay in the release of the decision was triggered by the new appointments of Associate Justices (Renato Corona and Alicia Austria-Martinez) to this honorable court."

### 'Tainted decision'

Lacson claimed that the SC had decided the case already and insinuated that the entry of Corona and Martinez, being appointees of the President, "may taint if not cast doubt on the propriety of the vote and the final say of this honorable court in this all-too-important case."

Their participation would "tilt the balance or change the configuration of the votes which were allegedly already given or conveyed during the deliberations that supposedly took place on April 11, 2002."

The justice denied that Corona's and Martinez's entry into the high tribunal has affected the resolution of the case.

The President appointed Corona and Martinez to the SC on April 11 to fill up the vacancies left by Associate Justices Bernardo Pardo and Arturo Buena.

Corona and Martinez were sworn into office on April 12 in Malacañang.

Lacson claimed to have received reports that the SC—with only 13 justices at the time—decided on the case as early as April 11.

He said he was besieged by requests for interviews on April 10 when the case was supposedly being deliberated upon, with the decision supposed to be promulgated that same afternoon.

Lacson said that the following day, April 11, reporters had called him again to comment on reports that the SC majority had already rendered a decision. But since the dissent had to be prepared, the chief justice had reportedly allowed the dissenting opinion to be submitted on April 30, he said.

"On April 30, (I was) informed that majority had shifted and the decision will be promulgated on May 28, 2002, to give Corona and Martinez time to study the case record and participate in the vote for the decision," said Lacson.

### More doubts

Earlier, Lacson also expressed his doubts about the capacity of Carpio to rule impartially on the case as the latter had, through his column in the INQUIRER, already prejudged the case.

This prompted Carpio to inhibit himself from the oral arguments on the issue of reopening the Kuratong Baleleng case on Feb 19.

Carpio, the first appointee of Ms Macapagal to the high court, was an INQUIRER columnist before being appointed.

The case was deemed submitted for resolution on March 18 after the parties submitted their memorandums.

The Kuratong Baleleng case stemmed from the May 18, 1995 killing of 11 members of the criminal gang on Commonwealth Avenue in Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo said the victims included two minors and they all "suffered the proverbial gunshot wound in the head."

He described it as a mass murder, "pre-meditated . . . planned . . . staged and executed by the very persons sworn to uphold the law, to obey the Constitution and to protect the weak."

Lacson and 37 others, including four police generals, were formally charged.

Quezon City Judge Wenceslao Agnir dismissed the cases in 1999 when the witnesses retracted their statements.

But early last year, the Macapagal-Arroyo administration ordered a new preliminary investigation and the subsequent filing of new charges against Lacson et al.

### CA ruling

The efforts to revive the cases suffered a major setback, however, when the Court of Appeals, acting on Lacson's motion, imposed a permanent injunction against their revival.

The CA based its decision on a technicality, saying the two-year period for the revival of the cases had already lapsed.

Marcel then went to the SC asking the high court to reverse the CA order.

A reversal will allow the justice department to prosecute Lacson et al. for murder on the strength of new testimonies executed by Inspectors Ysmael Yu and Abelardo Ramos.

Marcelo said Lacson could not use the doctrine of double jeopardy since Lacson was not validly arraigned before the case was dismissed.

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## Loi ordered to appear before court

By Volt Contreras

THE SANDIGANBAYAN yesterday included Sen. Luisa Ejercito among those ordered to appear in court to answer contempt charges filed by the Plunderwatch anti-corruption group.

The opposition lawmaker was ordered to appear before the anti-graft court next Wednesday along with her husband, deposed ex-president Joseph Estrada, their son Jinggoy, and the Estradas' former counsels, Rene Saguisag and Raymond Fortun.

The special Sandiganbayan division summoned Ejercito despite a pending manifestation filed for her by Saguisag on April 30 invoking her parliamentary immunity.

But the court said it would take the manifestation for consideration "at the appropriate time."

Plunderwatch's April 17 petition asked the court to cite Estrada et al. for contempt for openly attacking the integrity of the judicial system, particularly the Sandiganbayan and the Supreme Court.

The senator was included in the complaint on the basis of a privilege speech she delivered in Congress on March 12 accusing the high court of bias against her husband.

Saguisag maintained that Ejercito's speech qualified as privileged communication and thus could not be used as a basis for contempt proceedings.

On Thursday, he sought the petition's dismissal by questioning the legal personality of Plunderwatch.

Any action coming from private individuals or groups against the Estradas should be coursed through the public prosecutors, he said.

Estrada, currently detained in the Veterans Memorial Medical Center, is being tried on charges of plundering a personal fortune of P4 billion during his 30 months in office.

His son, Jinggoy, who is a co-accused in the case, is being held in the same hospital.

Plunderwatch filed the contempt charges against them and their lawyers for reportedly saying that the courts had already pre-judged the corruption trial.

Also summoned as witnesses were two reporters of the INQUIRER which carried the reports of the Estradas challenging the judiciary.

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| CIVIL LAW | • Judge Ed Vincent Albano<br>• Dean Eduardo Abella<br>• Dean Michael Moralde<br>• Dean Ernesto Pineda<br>• Prof. Rolando A.P. Reyes |
| MERCANTILE LAW | • Judge Japar Dimaampao<br>• Dean Eduardo Abella<br>• Prof. Joe-Santos Bisquera |
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# Foreign businessmen urged to protect selves vs kidnappers

## *Hire armed bodyguards, get bullet-proof cars–PNP*

FOREIGN businessmen in the Philippines should take security precautions against kidnappings even though the number of abductions has fallen in recent years, police said yesterday.

Senior Supt. Leonardo Espina, Philippine National Police spokesperson, said the foreigners should hire armed bodyguards and, if possible, travel in bullet-proof vehicles.

Asked at a media forum if foreign investors should invest in their personal security, Espina said: "Definitely. When we build houses we put locks in them."

While foreigners cannot own guns themselves, they could always seek government permission to hire armed security personnel. "You would be given (a permit) if the threat is too high," he said.

"If they could afford (bullet-proof cars), then why not?"

But Espina asserted that the Philippines' reputation as Asia's kidnapping capital was misplaced, saying abductions had declined for years with confirmed cases down to 100 last year and 13 in the three months of 2002.

He blamed some kidnap victims for caving in to ransom.

"There are foreigners who fight and they are not potential targets of kidnappers. Kidnappers know who will pay or not. I'm sorry to say but Filipino-Chinese easily pay.

"There are not so many Japanese being kidnapped because Japanese do not pay."

Independent anti-crime monitors say up to 70 percent of the kidnapping cases involve small Chinese-Filipino businessmen. The small ethnic minority is prominent in the retail and manufacturing sectors.

Asked if victims who pay ransom are to blame, Espina said: "Yes, now they know their mistake. Once you pay you're laying down the business field to them."

He added: "Kidnappers are businessmen, they just happen to belong to the illegal side of it. They just want the money. If you deprive them of the demand then there's not going to be any supply. Why would I kidnap somebody who will not pay?

"It's all about the money. They don't want to kill, they just want the money."

Espina said that due to police successes in breaking up kidnap gangs in Manila, many of the recent cases occurred outside the capital.

Abu Sayyaf Muslim guerrillas who allegedly have links to the al-Qaida terror network of Osama bin Laden are holding an American Christian missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham in the southern Philippines.

Another splinter Muslim rebel group, called the Pentagon, holds a South Korean businessman.

On the Americans' case, Espina said one arrested Abu Sayyaf leader has told police "they would like to get rid of the Burnhams, it's too hot an item to hold."

US Special Forces troops are advising Filipino troops in pursuit of the Abu Sayyaf kidnappers, who are holding the Burnhams on Basilan Island.

"They now realize that they have made a very big mistake kidnapping Americans. Who would be encouraged to kidnap a second American again?"

***AFP***

# Dela Peña accepts Guingona's denial

**By Gerald Lacuarta**

A LAWYER who was reported to have been recommended by Vice President Teofisto Guingona to replace Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez yesterday conceded that the vice president may have changed his mind.

"If he (Guingona) changed his mind, I can't do anything about it," Roseller de la Peña told the INQUIRER.

But De la Peña, former undersecretary for legal affairs of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, chided "some quarters" for panicking over a letter of recommendation allegedly sent by Guingona.

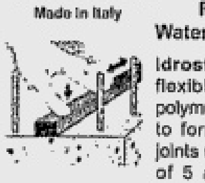
"There seems to be a misunderstanding. I was not being appointed, so why are they panicking?" he said, without naming names.

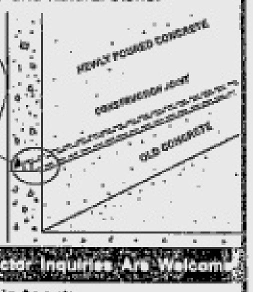
Guingona supposedly recommended De la Peña to replace Alvarez at the DENR in a letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo on April 2.

Guingona, president of the ruling Lakas-NUCD, the other day denied the existence of such a letter, saying he stood by Alvarez, the Lakas-NUCD secretary general.

But De la Peña stood by the letter he received through the mail from the Presidential Management Staff, which acknowledged receipt of Guingona's endorsement of De la Peña.

"It has the letterhead of the PMS and had the marks of the post office," De la Peña said.





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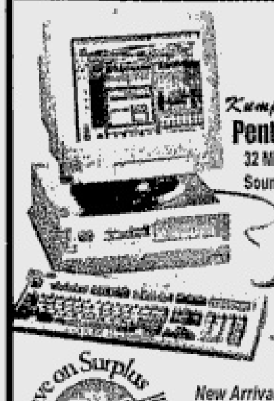

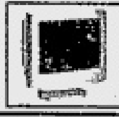

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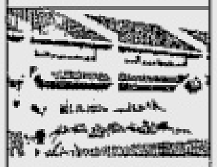

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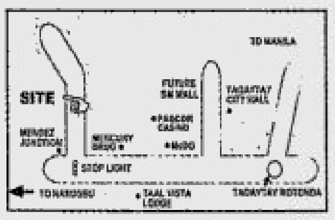

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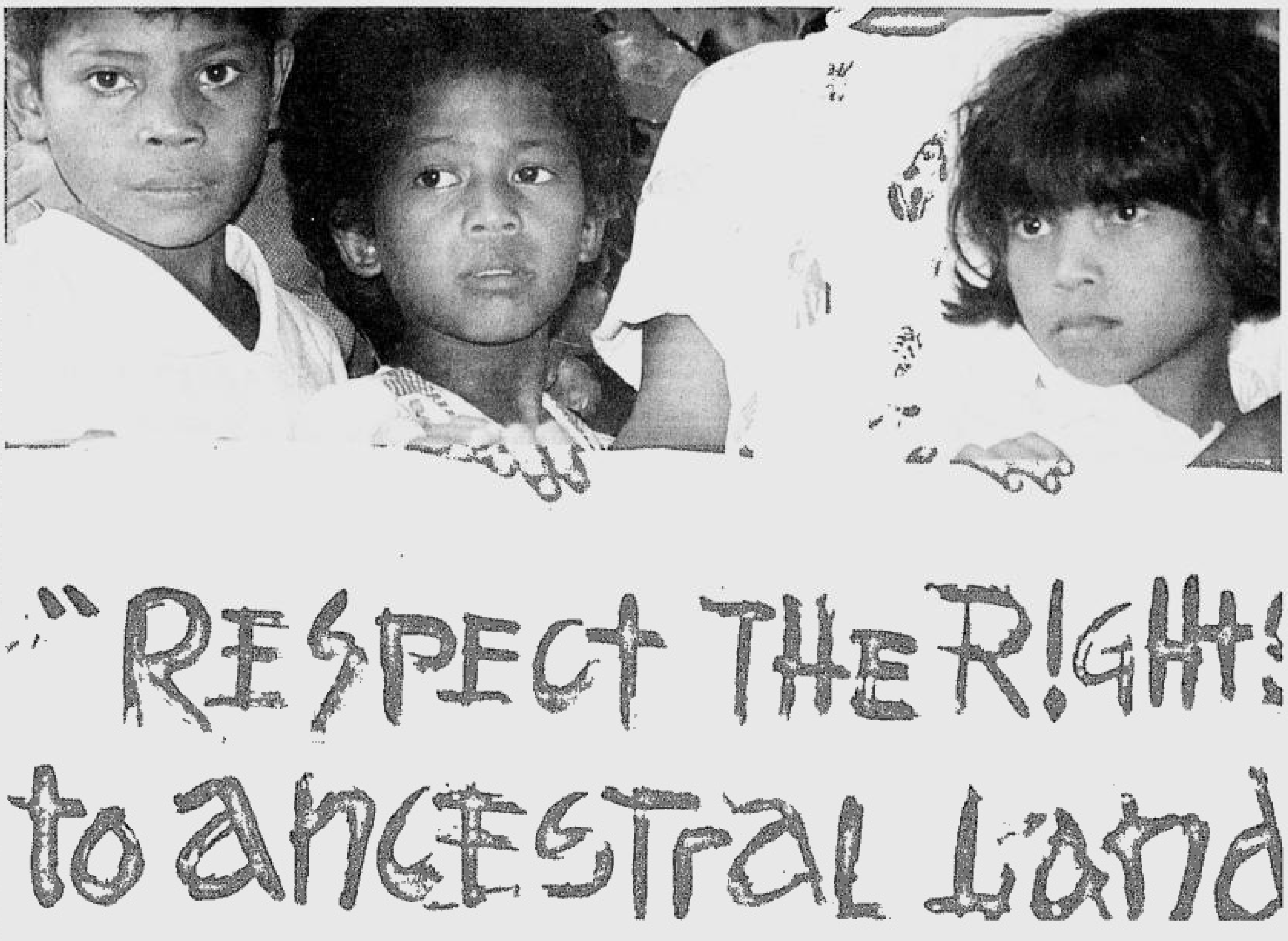

**INDIGENOUS** people from different provinces rally in front of the DENR to demand the scrapping of the Mining Act of 1995. JOAN BONDOC

# 'Don't drag the House down'

From page A1

gressman told the INQUIRER.

When asked to comment, Andaya said he was now in the eye of the storm.

"But I can take it," he said. "All I ask of my colleagues is that we not do things that would destroy the (House)."

A DPWH official who requested anonymity challenged lawmakers to investigate the "multimillionaires" in the department.

"I dare them to do that and they will see us coming out with documents about graft in pork barrel-funded projects and a list of their favored contractors, some of whom are their wives or close kin," he said.

The official also said congressmen could not afford to do this because the infrastructure fund was "their bigger cash cow."

"They get elected and re-elected because of their fruitful union with us," he said. "I dare them to open Pandora's box."

### Parameters

Andaya said the sharing formula applied only to the regular infrastructure fund of the DPWH and could not include the infrastructure programs of other departments.

He said congressmen could not go outside these parameters because the same formula would be used every year.

Pichay, a member of the technical panel formed to come up with an acceptable sharing formula, had suggested that the infrastructure budgets of the Departments of Agriculture (DA) and of Agrarian Reform (DAR) be tapped for districts disadvantaged under the present system.

He estimated the possible "equalization fund" at P3 billion.

But he clarified that his proposal did not entail taking away the two departments' infrastructure projects or changing their priorities. He said the funds would still be spent for the same purpose.

Pichay also said that because the DPWH was still the implementing agency for the infrastructure budgets of the two departments, putting the money under the "equalization fund" would even cut red tape.

Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez and Leyte Rep. Ted Failon, one of those demanding a change in the present system because his district was getting only P3 million, had expressed support for Pichay's proposal.

But Andaya said: "You cannot peg the (infrastructure allocations) of the DA and DAR every year."

Besides, he said, the DA and DAR had their own priorities that were in tune with the government's overall development programs.

### No funds

Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza, a former congressman, said the DAR had no funds that could be realigned for congressional pork barrel. He said the department itself was having difficulties because of a series of budget cuts.

Braganza warned his colleagues that realigning the DAR's infrastructure fund would violate provisions of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law.

He said the fund was specifically intended for farmer-beneficiaries who had been given emancipation patents and Certificates of Land Ownership Awards.

"This means that the fund is locked into the projects and simply cannot be realigned. The DAR has a list of Agrarian Reform Communities (ARCs) that need farm-to-market roads and irrigation projects," Braganza said in a statement.

He said that while congressmen could recommend which ARCs were to be given projects, the DAR would still have to determine the projects to be given priority.

Pichay had said his "win-win" formula would break the deadlock on how to divide the P34.8 billion.

The fund is a DPWH budget, but congressmen are allowed to identify the projects that would be financed.

At present, the fund is distributed to congressional districts on the basis of equal sharing, 25 percent; population, 20 percent; and infrastructure scarcity, 55 percent. Foreign-assisted projects (FAPs) are included in the formula.

### Equitable way

Andaya said many congressmen had been complaining about the present system because many districts, especially those with huge FAPs, were left out.

He said this was why the House appropriations committee was in search of an "equitable way" of distributing the funds.

Andaya urged his colleagues not to fight each other.

"Obviously, many congressmen are opposed to changing the system, but this has to be looked at from the whole perspective of the budget, not district per district," he said.

He also said congressmen should accept the fact that the infrastructure fund could not be distributed equally per district: "It cannot be equal, it can only be equitable."

According to Andaya, those who are fighting for the status quo should also realize that the infrastructure fund would actually decrease next year because of an expected large volume of FAPs.

He said that because the budget changed every year, those districts currently receiving bigger shares might receive less next year.

"Everybody will go down, so I am just trying to protect them," Andaya said.

Pichay asked the INQUIRER to "correct" the impression that the P34.8 billion was congressional pork barrel.

"This is not pork barrel. This is the regular infrastructure fund of the DPWH," he said, adding that it was the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF)—at P65 million per congressman and P100 million per senator—that was regarded as pork barrel.

Both congressmen and senators identify the projects for both the DPWH infrastructure fund and the PDAF.

Along with the House public works committee, Andaya's committee came up with 13 alternative schemes to divide the P34.8 billion among all 209 congressional districts.

The public works committee separately approved alternative scheme 6, which calls for 100-percent equal sharing regardless of population density and infrastructure scarcity. This scheme excludes FAPs.

### Evidence

The Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC) has taken up the cudgels for public works officials resentful of congressional moves to corner the DPWH infrastructure fund.

In a phone call to the INQUIRER, VACC head Dante Jimenez said his group was looking into specific cases of government officials, including congressmen, "intervening" in the bidding for infrastructure projects.

"We have evidence," said Jimenez, whose group has been deputized as a corruption prevention unit by the Office of the Ombudsman.

The VACC recently signed a memorandum of agreement with Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong to help ensure that the bidding is aboveboard.

Jimenez acknowledged that, as claimed by some congressmen, corruption was prevalent at the DPWH.

But this does not mean that lawmakers should exacerbate the problem by adding a "layer of corruption," he said.

"Graft will only be transferred from DPWH men and their chosen contractors to members of Congress and their own set of favored contractors," he said.

A former congressman earlier said that anywhere between 19 and 52 percent of the cost of pork barrel projects went to the pockets of various government officials in the form of kickback.

"OK, they say DPWH men are corrupt. But do they have to corrupt them even more?" Jimenez said.

He said it was only logical for DPWH officials to want to control the P34.8-billion infrastructure fund because "they have their necks on the line with those projects."

"These career officials are the ones answerable for roads that crack months after construction, bridges that fall or school buildings that collapse," Jimenez said, adding:

"When something goes wrong in a congressman's or senator's pet project, it is the DPWH officials who are used as fall guys, denounced in privilege speeches, investigated by Congress and slapped with graft charges before the Ombudsman."

# Villar formula: Use excess power, pay less

From page A1

Villar said.

He said the scheme would allow small and medium industries longer operating hours without incurring additional expense. "This means giving them the opportunity to increase their profits and let their businesses grow," the senator said.

### Benefits

Villar pointed out that the "potential benefits of increased power consumption on the economy are limitless."

"The growth of industries will mean more jobs and income opportunities. This is the most practical and doable solution that we have at the moment since it will rightfully give to the consumers what they are paying for," he said.

Under the present setup, Villar lamented that consumers are paying for what they are not using through the PPA, a large component of which is payments made to IPPs contracted to generate energy.

During the energy crisis in the early 1990s, the Ramos administration entered into contracts with IPPs to solve the power shortage.

Power requirements supplied by the IPPs were based on the assumption that demand would grow 10 percent a year. But the economy has declined, resulting in weak electricity demand and excess energy supply.

Earlier this week, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered Napocor to reduce its PPA charges from utilities by an average of 85 centavos per kwh.

### Borrow $100 million

The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM), which is assuming Napocor's liabilities, said it would need to borrow $100 million to refinance the PPA reduction in May and June.

If the PPA reduction is still implemented from July to December, PSALM will have to borrow $350 million more.

PSALM president Edgardo del Fonso said the President's order was for Napocor to reduce its PPA until the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) had acted on its own proposal or until a law on this had been passed.

The ERC said the cost of the PPA could rise in the long-term because of proposed amendments to the Power Reform Law.

ERC Chair Fe Barin pointed this out in a letter dated May 7 to Rep. Alipio Cirilo Badelles, chair of the House committee on energy.

"The proposed amendment could result in higher stranded contract costs with the inclusion in its calculation of the (interest from the) debt raised for spreading the full recovery," Barin said.

House Bill No. 4741 seeks to limit Napocor's PPA to 40 centavos per kilowatt-hour. The amount not covered would be refinanced through foreign loans.

### Reservations

In a telephone interview, Barin lauded the bill but expressed reservations with some of its provisions.

"(The bill says) it aims to give (consumers) relief from high electricity costs," Barin said in a telephone interview. "Who doesn't want lower power costs?"

But she said the ERC wanted clarifications on a section seeking to exempt consumers from the PPA and to put a cap on the universal charge. Part of the PPA that consumers pay for accounts for the cost of power that the Napocor buy from IPPs.

The Napocor PPA will become one of several universal charges when electricity rates are unbundled or itemized in the second half of the year.

In the letter to Badelles, Barin also noted a need to explain clearly the following:

- Mechanics of how consumers using up to 75 kwh a month would be exempt from paying the Napocor PPA;
- How long the 40 centavos per kwh would be recovered as a universal charge; and
- How the distribution utilities' PPA would be taken cared of or whether the House bill allowed the utilities to refinance their own PPA.

# PDI journalists released on bail

From page A1

banner story published on Aug. 5, 2001 saying that Lacson had stashed $211 million in US banks when he was the chief of the Philippine National Police and of the now disbanded Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF).

The suit also stemmed from columns in the INQUIRER Metro section which said that Lacson did not hesitate to order the execution of criminals, that he got an expensive Patek Philippe wristwatch from a kidnap victim, and that he was involved in the illegal drug trade. The columns appeared between July 12 and July 28 last year.

Ordered released were INQUIRER publisher Isagani Yambot, editor in chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc, news editor Artemio Engracia Jr., metro editor Louie Camino, columnists Recah Trinidad and Ramon Tulfo and reporters Christine Herrera and Carlito Pablo.

Col. Victor Corpus, head of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) and source of the INQUIRER exposé, also posted bail. He was charged with two counts of libel.

The release order was issued by Judge Winlove Dumayas of Makati RTC Branch 58 yesterday morning after the journalists posted bail of P10,000 each for each count of libel).

All eight INQUIRER staff members were ordered arrested on May 6 based on a warrant issued by Dumayas.

In his release order, Dumayas ordered the eight to appear before him on June 27 for the arraignment and possible pre-trial of the case.

INQUIRER lawyer Ferdinand Domasin of the Ortega, Del Castillo, Bacorro, Odulio, Calma & Carbonell Law Office said he would ask the Department of Justice to review the information filed by the prosecutor within the prescribed 15 days from its receipt.

### Surprised

Another INQUIRER lawyer said the warrant of arrest "caught us by surprise" because it was issued despite the failure of the prosecutor to furnish the accused a copy of the information.

Last January, Lacson charged each of the accused editors with nine counts of libel. Tulfo is facing eight and Herrera and Pablo one each. Camino was included in the charge as Metro section editor where Tulfo's columns came out. Trinidad was included as the Metro section's reliever editor.

Last May 2, Makati Assistant Prosecutor Henry Salazar filed the information recommending the prosecution of the INQUIRER editors, columnists and reporters for libel after finding probable cause.

Salazar said that Herrera and Pablo's banner story "willfully, unlawfully and feloniously and with malicious intent" tended to impeach the honesty, virtue and reputation of Lacson.

### $1 billion

The banner story said Corpus had uncovered nearly $1 billion in bank accounts in three countries allegedly belonging to Lacson and former President Joseph Estrada that was believed to have been amassed since 1996 allegedly from drug-trafficking, kidnapping and other high crimes.

Citing an intelligence information, Corpus said Lacson alone maintained eight personal accounts totaling $211.38 million in six Citibank branches in Hong Kong, California and New York and in two Bank of America accounts in California and New York.

The US Department of Justice was supposed to have given its Philippine counterpart documents on the bank accounts but was reportedly distracted by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States, according to Justice Secretary Hernando Perez.

A few months after the INQUIRER exposé, former narcotics intelligence agent Mary "Rosebud" Ong implicated Lacson in the illegal drug trade.

Almost at same time, Ador Mawanay, who claimed to be a former PAOCTF civilian agent, also surfaced and said Lacson had been involved in money laundering and the illegal drug trade.

In his columns, Tulfo said Lacson ordered the execution of members of the Kuratong Baleleng bank robbery and kidnap-for-ransom group.

Tulfo also wrote that Lacson had an affair in 1974 with his future wife Alice, while her husband was detained at the Military Intelligence Service Group, then the unit to which Lacson belonged.

### Narco politics

Corpus was also one of the sources of Tulfo. The military intelligence chief had admitted to giving the INQUIRER access to Isafp's initial findings on the alleged crimes perpetrated by Lacson, including big-time drug trafficking and money laundering, so the country may be made aware of the dangers of "narco-politics."

The Senate has yet to release its report on its investigation of Corpus' allegations against Lacson.

Corpus said he would stand by his exposé and would continue the investigation of Lacson.

"We'll see who's telling the truth," Corpus told reporters in a telephone interview when asked if he would pursue the case against Lacson.

### Harassment

Corpus said that he considered the libel case against him "harassment" and that as much as possible he would want to remain silent and not quarrel with the senator through the media.

"I'll just present my arguments before the courts," he said.

But earlier, Corpus expressed alarm when a warrant for his arrest was served yesterday.

Military officials said Corpus was surprised because the Makati prosecutor's office had not called a preliminary investigation and had not asked him to submit a counter-affidavit.

"He's a little bit worried how the warrant was served. It seems he was not given enough time. He had no chance to explain," said Lt. Col. Jose Mabanta, military spokesperson.

"I understand that you have 10 days to give your side before it's actually served. But this was not done in his case," Mabanta said during a joint press briefing with the national police in Camp Crame.

Mabanta said the AFP would support Corpus "all the way."

In Malacañang, Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable rejected Lacson's call for the Palace to order the filing of a separate administrative case against Corpus for allegedly organizing a demolition job against the senator.

"That's a matter that should be addressed to the Armed Forces," Afable said. ***With reports from TJ Burgonio and Martin P. Marfil***

# Comelec war perils SK listup

**By Blanche S. Rivera**

THE SPECIAL registration for the youth polls is in danger of being postponed again, a victim of the unending factionalism in the Commission on Elections which has derailed the appointment of election officers who will oversee the listup set two weeks from now.

Comelec commissioners Luz Tancangco, Rufino Javier and Mehol Sadain failed to attend the en banc session last Tuesday while commissioner Ralph Lantion was still on leave.

Only Comelec chair Alfredo Benipayo and the commissioners identified with him, Resurreccion Borra and Florentino Tuason Jr., were present at the session.

Around three million voters aged 15 to 17 are expected to register for the long-delayed Sangguniang Kabataan polls. The SK elections will be held simultaneously with the barangay polls on July 15.

Caridad Walse-Lutero, chief of staff of Benipayo, said the list of more than 100 election officers was submitted by the selection board to the en banc for approval early this week, but it was not taken up due to the lack of quorum.

Out of the 16 Comelec regional offices, only three—the National Capital Region, Regions 6 and 9—have complete and approved the list of their officers. All the rest still need the approval for the appointments to the vacancies.

Aside from the more than 100 election officers who need to be appointed, 33 positions in the Comelec are also vacant. The list of those recommended for the vacant posts was submitted to the en banc in November last year, Lutero said.

Rene Garcia of the Comelec's personnel department said the provincial supervisors and thé regional election directors have submitted a memorandum to the en banc to fast-track the appointment of the election officer to prevent another postponement of the special registration scheduled on May 20 and 21.

"We already asked the en banc to give preference to the EO's appointments because we have only two weeks left before the registration," Garcia said.

In a worst case scenario when the Comelec en banc fails to approve the appointment of the election officers recommended by the selection board, the provincial supervisor and regional election director can appoint officers in charge to ensure that the registration will push through.

The Comelec directors, however, would prefer that the en banc decide on the appointments for the sake unquestionable legitimacy.

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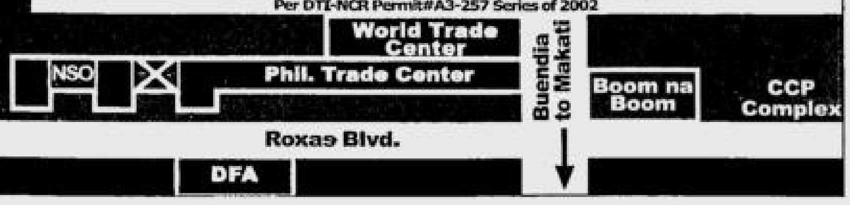

# Vietnam forum to push wider use of hybrid rice

AGRICULTURE scientists, officials and businessmen are to meet in Vietnam next week to discuss ways of speeding up the adoption of hybrid rice in Asia, the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) said Friday.

Representatives from 20 countries were expected to attend the three-day international symposium in Hanoi beginning May 14 to "discuss the current status and future prospects of developing and disseminating hybrid rice technology," the IRRI said in a statement.

Hybrid rice is developed by combining different strains of rice into new varieties with improved qualities like higher-yields per hectare or the ability to grow in harsher environments.

There are currently more than 20 countries developing hybrid-rice technology in collaboration with IRRI and China, the statement said.

China, which pioneered the use of hybrid rice, now grows these crops in about half of the area devoted to rice cultivation.

Ren Wang, deputy chief of research at the IRRI, said hybrid rice varieties now being tested by farmers in the Philippines and Vietnam have boosted harvest.

The conference also aims to address problems that have slowed the propagation of hybrid rice, including inferior grain quality and poor levels of resistance to diseases and insect pests in the early hybrids, the costly supply of seeds and inadequate government support, IRRI said.

There is a total of 1.42 million hectares of land planted to hybrid rice outside of China and over the next five years, this could rise to as much as two million hectares, Virmani said.

IRRI, based in the university town of Los Baños south of Manila, is a research institute which is spearheading studies into rice, a key staple to most of the world's population.

It is part of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), a network of non-profit agricultural research organizations, sponsored by UN agencies and donor countries. *AFP*

## THE DAILY GOSPEL

**Saturday, May 11, 2002**
**6th Week of Easter**
**1st Reading: Acts 18:23-28**
**Gospel: Jn 16:23-28**

Jesus said to his disciples, "When that day comes you will not ask me anything. Truly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in my Name, he will give you. So far you have not asked in my Name; ask and receive that your joy may be full.

I taught you all this in veiled language, but the time is coming when I shall no longer speak in veiled language, but will tell you plainly of the Father.

When that day comes, you will ask in my Name and it will not be for me to ask the Father for you, for the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and you believe that I came from the Father. As I came from the Father and have come into the world, so I am leaving the world and going to the Father."

Commentary

The seven weeks of Lent are incomplete without the seven weeks of Easter. Accompanying Jesus through John's selection of all the many things that Jesus did and said, we meditate again on the journey that brought him to Calvary, but this time we see it all the more clearly in the light of the resurrection. Jesus does not speak of dying but of "going to the Father". Through his terrible Passover our sorrow has been turned into joy, the limitations to the power of evil have been demonstrated and we stand with Christ in God's presence. When we pray with Jesus our prayer is his, opening us to all that God is dying to give us (literally!) With faith and simplicity, let's approach God in the company of Jesus and there discover what we really want to ask for.

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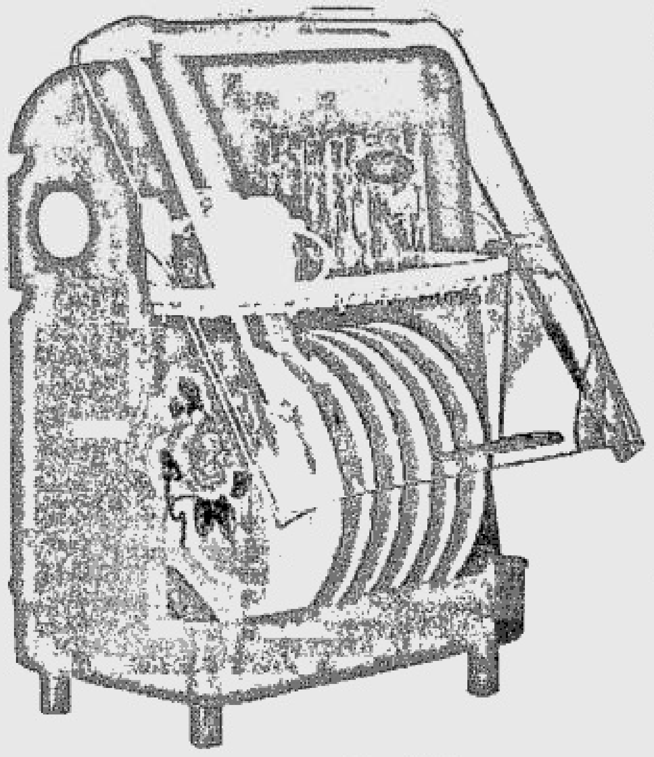

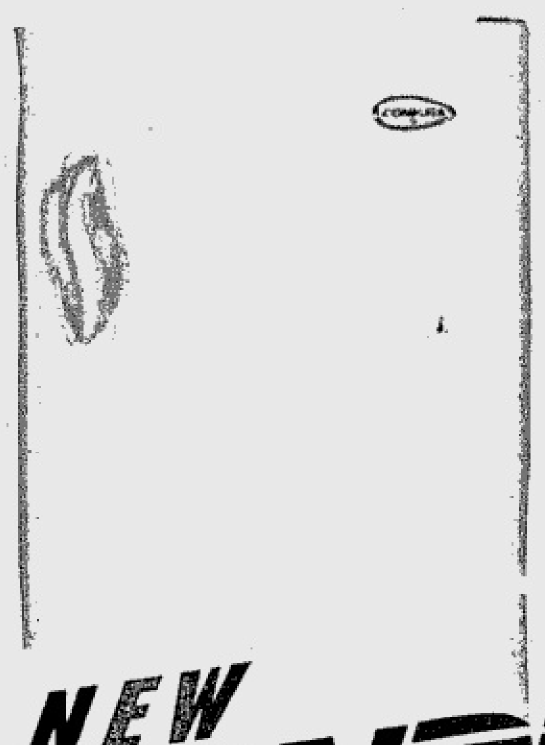

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# Avalanche of losing

**EDITORIAL**

THE GOVERNMENT'S effort to recover ill-gotten wealth from the heirs of President Ferdinand E. Marcos and their cronies suffered another setback last Monday when the Sandiganbayan dismissed a case alleging that the Marcoses invested in 2.4 million shares in the Philippine Long Distance Co. through dummies.

In a humiliating decision, the Sandiganbayan threw out the case filed by the Presidential Commission on Good Government basically for sloppy preparation. It ruled that the PCGG supported its case with unacceptable evidence—i.e., photocopies rather than original documents. The PCGG had alleged that the late Ramon Cojuangco, Imelda Cojuangco and Prime Holdings Inc. served as dummies in the acquisition of shares worth P1.6 billion by the Marcos family.

The court held that "no competent evidence" was presented to show that Marcos "had any hand in PTIC," or in the "acquisition" by the Cojuangcos of shares in their names. The disconcerting thing about the dismissal is that the quashing of government cases related to recovery of ill-gotten wealth has become a bad habit.

The PCGG has revealed that 92 of 111 criminal cases filed against the Marcoses and their cronies either with the Ombudsman or the Sandiganbayan had been dismissed as of last September. The series of dismissals has so shocked the PCGG that it has sought closer cooperation between it and the Ombudsman in the prosecution of criminal cases. It has been found that the Ombudsman had not informed the PCGG of motions to withdraw, resulting in the dismissal of cases. In one case, the prosecutors did not oppose motions to dismiss filed by the Marcoses or their cronies in the malversation case against Imelda Marcos, Jose C. Benitez, Marcos' minister for human settlements, and three other officials.

In most of the cases where the government lost, the dismissal was either due to incompetence, lack of evidence or the prosecutors' giving up cases without offering a fight. The question of supporting a case with photocopies is so basic that a litigation built on this kind of evidence leaves the impression that prosecutors were either ignorant of the rules of evidence or had built their case in such a way to ensure defeat.

If there is no will on the part of prosecutors to push their complaints on the Marcos wealth cases, then close cooperation between the PCGG and the Ombudsman is not going to help the government stop this avalanche of losing.

It is not in the Ombudsman's office alone where the government has given up its case easily by taking the side of defendants. During the Estrada administration, no less than the internal revenue commissioner ruled that the BIR had no case against Lucio Tan in the tax evasion complaint filed by the previous commissioner. Prosecutors are expected to prepare their cases carefully but more than that, they must fight their cases with zeal to protect the public interest.

An inventory of the status of cases related to ill-gotten wealth filed against Ms Marcos is a nightmare for both the PCGG and the Ombudsman. It rings with the words "acquittal" and "dismissal."

No wonder, Ms Marcos is back again, circulating with a high profile in social functions and appearing confident in media interviews. The dismissal of the cases has given the Marcoses enough reasons to believe that they have acquired immunity from punishment in the judicial system by exploiting its weaknesses and the lack of will of prosecutors.

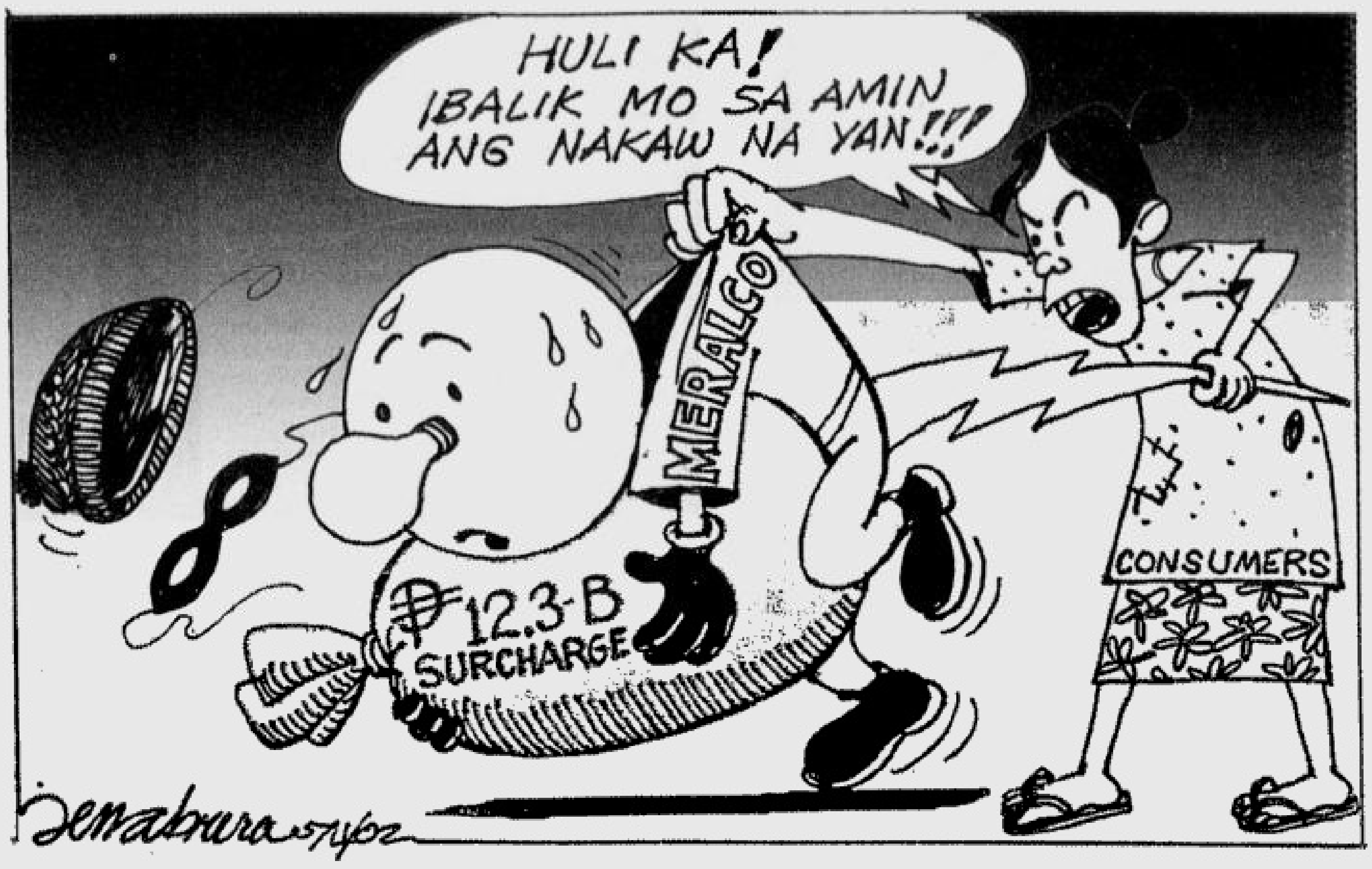
The new PCGG chair, Haydee Yorac, may be determined to strengthen her office as an instrument for the recovery of ill-gotten wealth, but she is discovering to her dismay that the government's prosecution machinery is not geared to press its cases.

# Unlikely champion

**FOREIGN COMMENT**

THE QUEEN, a symbol of Britain's feudal tradition, would appear an unlikely champion of multiculturalism, an indicator of modernity. But in her address to both houses of parliament, the monarch saw a multi-faith, many-hued society as a hallmark of Britain's "fairness and tolerance." It should shame politicians across Europe that an unelected, hereditary head of state can use language which has become alarmingly scarce in political debate. Populists of mainly, though not exclusively, right-wing complexions have chosen to link immigration and crime, and exploited, in the case of Jean-Marie Le Pen with spectacular success, fears that a rise in the former begets a rise in the latter. The dark, chauvinistic pitch of the extreme right plays on the fear that immigration destroys a nation. This needs to be challenged.

***The Guardian (London)***



# Judicial evasion

**SEPARATE OPINION**

*Isagani A. Cruz*

*FOLLOWING is an abbreviated version of the commencement address I delivered before the Institute of Law of the Far Eastern University on April 6. I would like to share it with my readers, especially this year's law graduates, my colleagues in the bar, and the Supreme Court.*

The law profession is one of the most maligned careers in the world. A German proverb says, "Go to a lawyer for your sheep and you will lose your cow." Some of our own lawyers are corroborating that sentiment with their reprehensible conduct, as in one significant plunder trial. I need not elaborate. A possible appropriate legal principle, although not strictly applicable, is *res ipsa loquitur*.

There is no gainsaying, however, that among all the professionals, it is the lawyer who stands stolid at the ramparts of freedom. The doctor may save a person's life, but it is the lawyer who protects his rights. Some say, and I hope you are among us, that liberty is more precious than life itself. Many heroes have died for that belief.

If you decide to engage in trial practice, I will urge you to make special efforts to protect individual liberty. Human rights deserve particular concern in the compassionate society. Regrettably, they have become the systematic targets of our increasingly authoritarian and militarized government. They need the vigilant solicitude of the sentinels in the law profession.

When I was a member of the Supreme Court, I was often a dissenter in cases involving individual rights. This was because the majority of my colleagues did not often share my sympathies for the little people. The Supreme Court has always been establishment-oriented; its members tend to be conservative rather than activist. They are reluctant to "rock the boat" where they are also riding.

Where there is an apparent conflict between authority and liberty, its inclination is to uphold the State with its full panoply of power and not the individual whose only sword and shield is the Bill of Rights. This is an alarming mind-set of the highest court in the land.

I do not suggest by this that there is an eternal conflict between authority and liberty. There is none in fact. The democratic society is based upon the need for the establishment of order as an imperative for the observance of rights. Authority and liberty must co-exist; there must be an equilibrium between them. But while order must first be established before rights can be enjoyed, the highest function of authority is to exalt liberty.

I have one case in mind where I disagreed with my colleagues because I felt they were yielding too much to authority to the detriment of liberty. This was Guazon v. De Villa, 181 SCRA 623, where the petitioners challenged the *zona*, officially called the areal saturation drive. This was (and possibly still is) conducted by the military and the police supposedly for the maintenance of peace and order.

In the dead of night, soldiers and policemen would surround a depressed community, rouse the residents—men, women and children alike—and order them at gunpoint to come out and line up. The men would be stripped for possible tattoos as indicia of wrongdoing. A hooded person would go over the line and point to suspected criminals or fugitives, who would be immediately arrested. All this would be done without the authorization of a search or arrest warrant.

This operation was borrowed from the Japanese occupation, but with this singular difference. We are no longer at war. Our republican regime has long since been restored, and it is now 2002, not 1942. Yet our present law-enforcement officers are still behaving like the arrogant invasion forces that treated us in utter contempt of our lives and liberties.

Where is the probable cause to support the issuance of the warrant? Where is the probable cause that should be determined *only* and *personally* by the judge after examining under oath or affirmation the complainant and his witnesses? The probable cause is the *pointing finger* of the hooded informer, who is probably a hoodlum himself. Its supposed function is not to *justify* the issuance of the warrant but in fact to *dispense* with it despite the strictures of the Bill of Rights.

How did the Supreme Court react to this outrage?

When the barangay and other civic leaders of the affected areas went to the high tribunal, they were turned away and denied relief. The Court held that the petitioners were not the proper parties to challenge the generals who had ordered the operations. It noted that not one single person among those rounded up or arrested had come out to complain. Applying the accepted definition of "proper party," it ruled that the petitioners "had not sustained or were not in immediate danger of sustaining an injury" because of the *zona*.

I disagreed. I deplored the pretended blindness of the majority to the saturation drives which were widely reported by the media and known to the public. The brutal facts were staring them in the face, but the justices simply looked the other way in search of excuses. The Court said it could not simply accept the *details* of the operations as alleged in the petition, but I argued that it should take judicial notice of *the operations themselves*, which could not be denied by the government. In fact, it had even given the *zona* an official name.

***(To be continued tomorrow)***

# On with Tancangco impeachment

**GET REAL**

*Solita Collas-Monsod*

THE NAMFREL has always handled the Commission on Elections with kid gloves, treating it with a respect and circumspection amounting almost to subservience. This is because, its reasoning went, it was dependent on a Comelec imprimatur—the needed deputization as a citizen's arm.

While Namfrel reportedly lobbied hard with Joseph Estrada NOT to appoint Luz Tancangco to the Comelec—it had first-hand experience and was a victim of her shoddy research and her irresponsible conclusions about elections—it drew the line at formally objecting to her confirmation with the Commission on Appointments. And while it could not prevent Namfrel members, like Gus Lagman, from doing so in their personal capacity, its collective stance was a hands-off policy, letting others fight over her confirmation.

And when she was finally confirmed, Namfrel, including Lagman, swallowed their reservations and offered their services, particularly since she chaired the Comelec's modernization committee. Paramount to them was the implementation of the election modernization law, which mandated automated counting and canvassing of election results by the May 2001 elections at the latest. They wanted nothing to stand in the way of that goal.

So while they took a dim view of the priority she was giving to cleaning up voters' lists and precinct mapping (because it had already been done in 1997, and could be updated using very much less expensive and more participatory means), they were not going to rock the boat for fear that the automation goal might be jeopardized.

They did write letters—asking when the automation process would be started, reminding the Comelec that time was running out, and again volunteered their services. As time went on, the letters took on a more urgent, pressing and finally, a desperate tone.

These were ignored, while Tancangco went merrily on her way with the precinct mapping and her VRIS projects. Still, Namfrel held on to its patience, until time ran out and it became clear that the 2001 election automation goal was no longer achievable.

It was clear that Tancangco was primarily to blame. Moreover, she had nothing to show in exchange for the failure to automate elections on time. A COA audit showed that her precinct mapping exercise was also a failure—with money unaccounted for to boot. Her VRIS system was also shot down because of its flaws—too costly, questionable feasibility.

The incompetence she showed in research was more than matched by her incompetence in administration. What's more, she was blaming everyone but herself. On top of that, she was wittingly or unwittingly subverting the Comelec's performance by her baseless accusations and chronic and regular absences (and those of her followers) from scheduled en banc meetings—although she was collecting her pay.

Namfrel, at long last, came to the end of its patience and realized that unless Tancangco left the Comelec, any chance of automating elections would again be in jeopardy. And since she had absolutely no intention of leaving voluntarily, the only option left was impeachment. Last week it announced its plans of mounting an impeachment campaign against Tancangco. About time, too.

Apparently, it was not only Namfrel that came to the conclusion that Tancangco's continued stay in the Comelec was dangerous to the cause of free and honest elections. Kompil, which played a crucial role in Edsa II, has come to the same conclusion, and is mobilizing its forces once more.

In the six days since Namfrel threw down the gauntlet, so to speak, set out its charges against Tancangco and announced a goal of getting the signatures of at least 100 organizations in 20 days, 30 organizations have already either signed, or signified their intentions to support the impeachment call.

The most significant of these, and one with the broadest base, is the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), which has not only come out behind the move, it has offered the services of its National Secretariat for Social Action or Nassa. The move is spreading and student councils and other student organizations are also starting to mobilize.

One who has rushed to Tancangco's defense is Rep. Willy Villarama of Bulacan (Tancangco reportedly comes from the same province), who, while admitting that he doesn't know too much about the issue, says that he was Tancangco's student, that she is a hard worker and that her precinct mapping was a good idea. Indeed, it may be a good idea (although not very useful when the system is automated), but Tancangco's hard work ended up in only 3 percent of that good idea being turned into reality. At great cost.

We hope, Villarama, once he knows the issues, will change his mind.

Most disappointing is the stance of Sen. Edgardo Angara. While he has not supported Tancangco directly, it is clear that he is on her side. He has told the Benipayo and the Tancangco factions to essentially kiss and make up, or else. But the "or else" for Benipayo is he doesn't get confirmed. No penalty to Tancangco, who therefore has no incentive to cooperate with Benipayo. That is tantamount to pressuring Benipayo to obey Tancangco's wishes in everything, if he wants to keep his job. Not only is she not impeached, she gets to be de facto Comelec chair.

That impeachment process is going to be a long, hard, uphill fight. But it will be worth it.

# An insult to the intelligence

## POLITICAL TIDBITS

### *Belinda Olivares-Cunanan*

THE ADMINISTRATION displayed a sensitivity to the people's clamor as well as keen political sense when it ordered the Napocor to stop passing its component in the purchased power adjustment (PPA) to Meralco. Had the order not been handed down, Meralco would have continued passing this added cost to the consumers. But in so doing, the administration has merely postponed the day of reckoning with a problem which, to be fair, is not of its making; the Napocor problem is an old story. Because the Napocor can't collect about 85 centavos per kilowatt-hour, it will now have to finance its deficits and losses, estimated to be about P15 billion, by borrowing about $300 million as there is no appropriation for this in the national budget. The new borrowings will be inimical not only to the Napocor but to the government as well.

* * *

**The story about Vice President Teofisto Guingona's alleged letter endorsing Roseller de la Peña in case the Commission on Appointments fails to confirm Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez's nomination merited front-page prominence, but that plot looks as fake as Guingona's supposed signature. Those plotting to oust Alvarez cannot even seem to make a plot that doesn't insult the intelligence. In the first place, why should Guingona wish to "replace" Alvarez when in fact the VP, as Lakas president, has been actively campaigning for the party's secretary general, calling up their party mates in the commission to vote for him? In addition, their relationship goes back to when they were both in the small band of anti-Marcos delegates in the 1971 Constitutional Convention. During the martial law regime their common cause against Marcos continued, with Guingona active here with Ninoy Aquino, and Alvarez with the democratic forces in exile in the US. Besides, the VP is a gentleman of the old school—I cannot see him undermining an old friend.**

* * *

But even assuming that Guingona wanted to be ready with his own nominee in case Alvarez didn't make it, why should he endorse De la Peña when the latter was an undersecretary of former Environment Secretary Antonio Cerilles in the Erap administration, whom Alvarez removed when he came in, and who now lawyers for some opposers of Alvarez in the commission hearings? I spoke to Agnes Huibonhoa, Guingona's chief executive assistant at the DFA, who has worked for him for 16 years, and she related that the VP told her, after the hullabaloo hit the press, that he didn't know this De la Peña. Huibonhoa, who said she herself had never heard of him, also stressed that the VP's immediate reaction was to call the NBI to investigate the circumstances of that supposed letter at the Presidential Management Staff. Initial findings of NBI handwriting expert Rogelio Azores revealed some discrepancy between the alleged communication and specimen signatures of the VP, and his findings are expected soon.

The plot smacks of a well-oiled plot by Alvarez's political enemies to derail his confirmation and perhaps even destroy the VP too, by means fair or foul. But this should drive home a point to President Macapagal about the high-stakes game at the DENR and how important it is to support someone at its helm who's tough and can say no to the politicians who are out to serve their own interests or worse, vested interests.

* * *

**At the summit of political parties, I had a chance to chat with North Cotabato's articulate governor, Emmanuel Piñol of the regional party called "Lihok Cotabato," who chaired the summit's Workshop No. 2, titled "Establishing the rule of Law and Trust in the Justice System." Piñol, a former media man before he entered politics, complained that Mindanao is getting only 10.29 percent of the national budget, versus 22 percent in Fidel Ramos' time, and 34 percent in Joseph Estrada's time. He appealed to Speaker Jose de Venecia for a bigger slice of the national budget in the coming year.**

**But except for this development, says Piñol, things are beginning to look up for his region, and among the indications are the investment of the Gotianum family of P1.3 billion in a new sugar mill and the five-year Mindanao Rural Development Program of the World Bank for five provinces of Central Mindanao, including North Cotabato, which allocates P700 million for this year alone. Development, Piñol points out, would attract the MILF in his province which has an 18-percent Muslim population, and along this line, the government has distributed corn seeds under its plant-now-pay-later plan, and pushed road construction and the distribution of small generators. An indication of the turning tide, he says, is that the former MILF stronghold known as "Sitio Makamatay" in Barangay Bao, Alamada, where President Magsaysay sent Hukbalahap elements to settle in the early '50s, has now been nicknamed "Makabuhay" due to the new development thrust. Then too, Camp Usman in Carmen, where the fighting with the MILF had been heaviest in the past regime, is now quiet and the warriors have been replaced by farmers.**

* * *

Did you know that the first people power was not at Edsa I, but during the time of the corrupt Spanish Governor General Diego Salcedo in 1668? Members of the 2B3C Foundation, a high school class of the Ateneo de Manila in the '50s, assure the readers that this vignette of Philippine history and culture and many more can be enjoyed in the four volumes of writings of famed Jesuit historian Horacio de la Costa, which will be launched on June 21, 2002, the anniversary of his final vows. A pre-publication special price for the set of four books will be available to early orders through fax: 426-6080, or by e-mail (rsvp@alumni.ateneo.net).

# An admirable traffic enforcer

## AT LARGE

### *Rina Jimenez-David*

MY friend and batch mate from grade school through high school, Tina Pargas-Bawagan, faxed me a note about a matter that, she said, is "not very urgent" but which she believes "is worthy of publication."

After reading the account, I felt it was indeed worthy of inclusion in this column, if only to give readers a break from the negative, the controversial and the contentious.

Tina wrote to commend a traffic enforcer, Alexander Galang Lapuz, a resident of Parang, Marikina, who mans the busy intersection of P. Tuazon, Romulo Avenue and 13th Avenue in Cubao, Quezon City.

"Lapuz is a very pleasant traffic enforcer," writes Tina, who should know since she lives nearby and presumably encounters the traffic enforcer every day on her way to and from work. "When pedestrians or drivers attempt to violate rules, he raises his gloved hand to stop them, establishing eye-to-eye contact, but with a smile. It is thus difficult for violators to develop anger against him.

"He is also very helpful. He is sensitive to the presence of elderly or very young pedestrians, and helps them cross the street whenever possible.

"An added feature is Lapuz's graceful gestures. It is amusing to observe his seemingly choreographed movements."

Tina also enclosed the statement of "Willy," an employee of the Burger Machine stand on the corner of P. Tuazon and 13th Avenue, who has had the opportunity to closely observe Lapuz at work and to talk to him about his life.

* * *

**WRITING in Filipino, Willy says that "if you observe Lapuz, you will probably conclude that he is the best when it comes to directing traffic. Indeed, even in the middle of the day, in the heat of the sun, as long at it's his shift, he carries on with his work, ever-smiling. That's why almost everyone passing by this corner ends up praising him. Many cannot help but admire him for his dedication to his work.**

**"Around Christmas, I saw for myself how his admirers went out of their way to give him gifts...And he truly deserves these tokens of gratitude and admiration.**

**"But Lapuz deserves praise not just for his traffic work, but especially for his assistance to those in need. For example, the out-of-work, out-of-school young men who hang around this area. He helps them by lending them money as capital so they could sell cigarettes. No matter how small, he says, at least they would earn something so they could buy food for themselves and their families. He says that he's happy just knowing he has helped others."**

**Tina adds that "dedicated traffic enforcers, the likes of Mr. Lapuz, should be commended in whatever way possible. This is, first of all, because they deserve it. And secondly, they could serve as inspirations to the rest of us."**

**So there you have it, the story of Alexander Galang Lapuz. He may be just a "lowly" traffic enforcer, but by sheer love for his work and for the people he serves, Lapuz has managed to make a difference not just in the way traffic flows along this busy corridor of Cubao, but even in the lives of the people he encounters every day. May he inspire us to likewise love our work and our calling, and to serve the community even if only by being the best we can be at whatever we do.**

* * *

CORRECTIONS. Some figures mentioned in this column at one time or another need correcting. Here goes:

In the first column on the "vaginal economy" and the ruckus being raised against Tesda director general Lucy Lazo, I mentioned that there was a "backlog of 47,000 ARBs (Artists Record Book)" traceable to Tesda. Lazo called up the other day to clarify that the figure—which I got from a paid ad of disgruntled recruiters, promoters and testing officers—is erroneous. "Tesda only has a backlog of 10,000 and I understand another 5,000 is pending with the POEA," she said. And to reiterate, there is a backlog only because the complaining parties managed to win a permanent injunction against a labor department order revamping the processing of overseas performing artists.

Some weeks back, I wrote about a visit to San Fernando, La Union which included a side trip to the La Union Medical Center in Agoo. In that column, I said that Gov. Manoling Ortega was in quite a fix because the annual health budget of La Union is P800 million, while the new state-of-the-art hospital, a donation of the European Commission, will cost P500 million a year to run efficiently.

It seems I inflated the figures. La Union's health budget is P80 million, while the hospital's projected budget is P50 million.

* * *

**STILL on the hospital, Governor Ortega called up shortly after I published in this space a letter from Amparo Aspiras, the widow of the late representative from La Union, Jose Aspiras, clarifying the former representative's (and tourism secretary) role in the establishment of the medical center. The governor confessed that indeed he was in a bind on how to best honor the many personalities who contributed to the setting up of this most impressive medical facility. For now, he said, he was inclined to retain the name "La Union Medical Center," to avoid further accusations of favoritism or neglect.**

**But Representative Aspiras, as well as other former and current provincial officials who had a hand in winning La Union's bid for the hospital, could be honored by having wings or specialty centers of the medical center named after them, the governor said. Sounds like a reasonable enough compromise, doesn't it?**

# The Jesuit lands

## SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

### *Bambi L.Harper*

ACCORDING to Fr. Pablo Fernandez, O.P. who did all the marvellous research on the friar estates in his book, "History of the Church in the Philippines," the Jesuits weren't friars. The other religious who came to the Philippines were described as belonging to mendicant orders which I presume the Jesuits were not. I am not at all clear why the Dominicans, Recollects and Augustinians were considered "mendicants," never having seen any of them begging on street corners.

As you know the Society of Jesus, also referred to at times as the Company (before the CIA was even the glimmer of an idea), was expelled not only from the Philippines but from all Spanish possessions by King Carlos III. Prior to their final expulsion, they had also been expelled from Portugal in 1759 and from France in 1764. The Jesuit's vow of obedience to the Pope placed the Society in the center of a struggle between religious power and the authority of kings. It was also suspected of controlling a lot of money and of excessive influence in educational affairs. Carlos III should have remembered Thomas More whom the Jesuits like to quote, saying he was the king's loyal subject but God's servant first. The real reason, aside from ego, may have been greed. Once the Society's properties were sequestered and the Crown became the owner and could dispose of them as it felt.

At the court, Carlos III initiated a secret inquiry, the result of which was the "Pesquisa Secreta," a document that accused the Jesuits of conspiracy, loose morals, illegal activities in America and an inordinate desire for wealth and power. In January 1767, the Council of Castile approved the expulsion. Between March and April 2 the 146 houses in Spain belonging to the Jesuits were surrounded.

In the Philippines, Governor General Jose Raon was later accused of having warned the Jesuits of the expulsion order in exchange for a large sum of money. This act supposedly allowed the Society to hide its gold, silver and other valuables as well as to destroy compromising letters and papers. Raon's successor, Simon de Anda, initiated legal proceedings against the former who was found guilty although the evidence was apparently circumstantial.

Jesuit properties in Luzon were located in Makati, Nagtajan and San Juan Bautista in Calamba in the names of the order, the Colegio Maximo de San Ignacio and the haciendas of the Colegio de San Jose.

The one in Makati was farm and pasture land. There were ovens as well for baking lime, roof tiles and brick and a *trapiche* for milling sugar cane. After the Jesuits were expelled, the marquis of Villamediana, Pedro de Galarraga acquired it.

The Calamba estate became the property of D. Jose Clemente de Azana who bought it at public auction for P44,007 and later sold it to the Dominicans. Doña Petrona Tuazon obtained the Nagtajan estate for P7,100 in cash.

The farmlands of Meyhaligue bought by Fr. Antonio Sedeño in 1595 to ensure support for the Colegio de San Jose, were set aside by the government to support instead the leprosarium of San Lazaro, run by the Franciscans.

Maysilo in Tambobong and Bocaue, Bulacan were acquired by D. Vicente Dolores Tuason for P22,206 at public auction. He also bought the hacienda in Mariquina for P33,750.

A third piece of land in Tondo province known as the Piedad estate became Villamediana's property at a cost of P4,741. Augustin del Rosario acquired Payatas for P15,011 while Nasugbu in Batangas became the property of D. Jose Issac who paid P7,742 payable in Mexico.

Father Fernandez did not state what happened to the San Pedro Tunasan estate in Laguna and Lian in Batangas or the properties in the Marianas but Blair and Robertson culling from Montero y Vidal, state that these were turned over to the Recollects. According to Buzeta y Bravo, the Manila Cathedral and 22 poor churches were enriched with ornaments that came from the San Ignacio College and the other houses. A great quantity of jewels and valuables were sent to Spain. Based on Murillo Velarde's description the image of St. Francis Xavier in the Jesuit Church in Intramuros was decorated with more than 15,000 precious stones and pearls and more than a thousand diamonds. On that of St. Ignatius, there were more than 20,000 jewels among them 800 diamonds. The vast library was broken up and bought by the different religious orders. Wenceslao Retana in his "Politica de España en Filipinas (1894)," mentions that he acquired a document of the original inventory of these books that included some titles that no longer existed. Whoever has the patience to read through the 12 bundles of the "Temporalidades" of Jesuit properties in the National Archives should be amply rewarded.

Both the Spanish monarchy and the Vatican finally forgave the Jesuits for whatever they may or may not have been guilty of and allowed their return to the Philippines in 1859 although they were not permitted to administer parishes. Instead they were assigned the Normal School for teachers, missionary work in Mindanao and the Manila Observatory. (These missions in Mindanao were taken from the Recollects who in compensation were given certain rich parishes in Manila that were held by Filipino secular priests. Great dissatisfaction ensued, terminating in the crisis of 1872.)

# Why I write

## YOUNGBLOOD

### *Therese Lim*

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—****Ed.***

I REMEMBER a time when life was quite simple. When I was a kid—and I do know that I was the bratty one—everything was either for me, or against me. Now that would seem as a surprise coming from a young chubby-cheeked girl of 4, but it was the way I lived my childhood.

Food was usually the major issue. I was very picky to say the least, and more often that not, the oatmeal I was served every morning ended up on the floor. I could not be fed using the spoon-turns-into-an-airplane tactic. I was too wily for that. Nor would I relent under heavy coaxing. Whenever I didn't like the food given to me, I would let out this enormous squeal, followed by a loud "*Ayoko!*" That was my way of threatening the maids to change the food...or else. Once they did, I'd smile and eat accordingly. If they chose to ignore me, well then, all hell broke loose. I'd scream at the top of my lungs while at the same time trying to keep my mouth shut so that the food couldn't be chucked in. When all else failed, I'd grab a clump of rice (I hated rice back then) and fling it to the floor. That was a long way down from where I was sitting in my high chair, but I didn't care.

What usually happened after these episodes was that I'd pay dearly for them. Either by being spanked, or by being made to listen to seemingly endless sermons on the importance of food. But I was a kid back then and all I actually cared about was the feeling of satisfaction I got from being able to tell other people what was on my mind. Right or wrong, it didn't matter.

If there is one thing I have retained and carried over to this day from all those food-fighting sessions at home, it would be that intense desire for expression. The modes may have changed (catapulting pork kidneys back into the soup bowl with a rubber band in your teenage years doesn't work, believe me), but the enthusiasm and zest for doing so haven't waned a bit.

Now I am a person with very limited skills. I can't sing, draw, paint, dance or act as well as true-blue performers can. I recoil when handed a microphone or a paintbrush. But then there's the pen (or in this case, the computer keyboard). The pen is different. It doesn't bite back when I touch it. In fact, we get along quite well compared to the other dreadful relationships I have with inanimate objects lying around the house.

Ever since the beginning of civilization, man has used writing to record his ideas, his thoughts, his inventions, his discoveries and his history down on paper. This guarantees him a legacy, a measure not absolute or total immortality. It assures him of being remembered long after he has passed through this world. We remember such great individuals as Abe Lincoln and Anne Frank because of the impressions they left made through writing. But writing shouldn't be seen as a mere means of becoming famous. I dare say that many more people have left greater marks on this world through their unheard of journals, their unread private essays, even the little insignificant notes they have scrawled on the back of old crumpled pieces of paper.

Writing on a more personal level, fulfills my inner needs more thoroughly than any other thing in this world. It gives me solace, comfort, happiness and contentment. It can make me laugh and cry. It can pull me out of depression, and it can sink me into ethereal bliss. When I write, I can escape reality, even for a while, or I can intensify it. Writing allows me to imagine the inconceivable, but just as well record the unforgettable.

Looking back at old essays and other pieces for which I cannot easily find a suitable classification (I think they're more like incoherent diary entries), I realized that they all went back to being able to express myself. As a private rule, I don't write for others. I write because I love to, because I need to give vent to my thoughts or feelings, or because it gives me a high. My writings are some of only a few things I can call truly mine. In them are my experiences, my ideas, my beliefs—everything I stand for as a person. Whether it's a long, drawn-out essay, or a short, humorous anecdote, it contains my identity, and that's something people will find hard to take away.

As of this moment, I have just ended a tumultuous school year. (Whoever said junior year in high school isn't really hard has got to be kidding.) It was difficult academically as well as emotionally. Every school night was an ordeal I had to go through, simply due to the heavy workload. And I just thank my lucky stars that I still found time to write once in a while, if only to calm my nerves or to soothe my aching mind.

It was also a year of unforgettable experiences of many ups and downs. And each memorable event, good or bad, has been reflected in papers required by my subjects, or pieces I wrote during my spare time. Some were pretty trivial, talking about things like my terrible time management. Some I wrote because I hurt badly and felt depressed. These were the times when life last year consisted more of pitfalls than peaks. I wrote when someone I thought was a friend turned on me, and when I was so scared because the future looked so bleak at one point. Some were funny; some were sarcastic. All reflected the mood I was in when I wrote them.

When Sept. 11, 2001 rolled around and the terrorist attacks blew everyone's minds, I, like many others, was speechless. As images of horror flooded my TV screen, I couldn't bring myself to cry because I was beyond tears. So I wrote. I wrote a lot in the next few weeks after the attacks. The air was despondent, and so were my pieces. I wrote a semi-poem that month, something which I never thought I actually could, reflecting the sadness everyone felt. I did it to cheer myself up, and to somehow tell myself that the world wasn't as bad and corrupted as I thought it was.

Now I write because I want to prove something to myself. I want to show myself that I am still the same idealistic—albeit more mature—person that I was when I was 4. It dawns on me today that perhaps life now is not as simple as tossing everything I hate out the window and screaming my lungs out to be heard amid the noise of the world. It doesn't stop for my grief, my hate, my joys or my dreams. But therein lies the challenge. Somehow, I know, with the help of my trusty old pen, I will make myself heard. Then maybe, just maybe, the world will someday stop, listen, care about and act upon what I have to say.

*Therese Lim, 16, is an incoming senior high school student in Manila.*

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# Special registration for SK elections

IN ACCORDANCE with Commission on Elections Resolution No. 4779 promulgated on April 14, 2002, there will be a special registration of members of the Katipunan ng Kabataan on May 20, 2002 (Monday) and May 21, 2002 (Tuesday), for purposes of the July 15, 2002 Sangguniang Kabataan elections. The two-day registration will be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the barangay hall, or public school or other public building that is centrally located within the barangay as may be determined by the registration committee of the barangay where the applicant resides.

Recognizing the indispensable role that media play in information dissemination, may we request your support and cooperation in this regard by publishing this reminder in your newspaper as a public service.

**—JOSE M. TOLENTINO JR., director IV, ASD/officer in charge, Education and Information Department, Commission on Elections, Intramuros, Manila**

## Trees: a matter of survival

CONSIDERED before as an activity fit only for social climbers and matrons with nothing to do, planting trees is now a matter of national survival. So urgent and compelling is it that to treat it with nonchalance is like committing a crime against succeeding generations.

Every Filipino should plant trees as a regular activity, particularly during legal or forced holidays. Students, youth groups, workers, retirees, homeowners, social clubs, neighborhood associations and the like should undertake it, formally or informally, if we do not want the cost of potable water to follow the way of the electricity rates and the purchased power adjustment (PPA) five or 10 years from now.

Translated into pesos, the yearly cost of losses in lives and property due to floods, typhoons and reduction of the water table could dwarf the annual budget of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Social Welfare and Development. If we wait for the government alone to do the job, it will take decades. Or, it could mean begging again for foreign assistance or loans that could add to our already heavy foreign debt.

Having no space to plant is no longer an excuse. If we have no frontyard or backyard, let's plant in empty cans and plastic containers and use our *hugas kusina* for watering the plants. In six months to one year's time, we can either sell them to the plant stores or give them away as gifts to friends. Trees will always find a place no matter whose ground it is planted in.

If every Filipino family would celebrate birthdays, anniversaries and graduations by planting trees, we would be able to plant millions of trees in a few years' time, enough to ensure a lifetime of potable drinking water and a flood-free environment.

**—EVA M. INCIONG, chair, Rizal People's Economic Council, Barangay Lagundi, Morong, Rizal**

## A case of technical malversation?

BEING a long-time resident of Marikina, I appreciate your articles praising Marikina City for its beauty and cleanliness. I'm also proud to live here.

What is especially attractive to a visitor is the Riverbanks complex of parks and commercial establishments. This used to be U-Tex which was mortgaged and later closed down.

The city government, under then Mayor Bayani Fernando, spent tens of millions of pesos and hundreds of man-hours to demolish the old structures and build new ones and construct new roads where there were none before.

Everybody here in Marikina knows that the whole complex of Riverbanks buildings and the lot these occupy are owned by Meneleo Carlos, the father-in-law of Bayani Fernando and the father of Mayor Maria Lourdes Carlos Fernando.

My question is: Is it legal, proper and moral for the city government to spend millions of pesos from the public coffers and utilize city employees to improve a piece of property owned by the city officials' relatives? Does this not constitute technical malversation of public funds? Are not the improvements principally benefiting private parties and its benefits to the people only incidental?

**—PERRY SANTOS, 233 J.P. Rizal St., Calumpang, Marikina City**

## Sin has seen the light

ONE good thing that has come out of the Freedom Force brouhaha is that Jaime Cardinal Sin, after all these years, finally saw the light and realized that the people he allowed into his confidence were nothing but a bunch of shady characters with zero credibility.

We do not begrudge the good cardinal the immense satisfaction he must have gotten from the constant flattery that Teodoro Benigno dished out in his column; nor do we frown on his falling hook, line and sinker for the intrigues of the glib Boy Saycon.

We understand. The cardinal is only human. Sickly and advancing in years and perceptibly losing his hold on the discerning faithful, he must have found great solace in the attention that this group was only too willing to give him.

But the cardinal must have realized by now how this group has used him to gain a semblance of respectability and credibility. It is obvious that once the cardinal has dissociated himself from this group, its members were unmasked and seen for what they really are: a sorry bunch of characters with an insatiable appetite for power and pelf but who never quite made it to the big time.

One is a political has-been (a "*trapo*" at that!) who, after all his years in politics, never attained the highest post. Another was a bagman of a former president. Still another is the self-proclaimed guru of the group who deludes himself into thinking that he alone knows the twists and turns of history and can see into the future. There are others, of course, but they are too insignificant to bother about.

Now that the cardinal has freed himself from the clutches of this group, he must be wary that they do not hold him captive and use him again.

These intriguers have a great capacity for mischief, but denied the imprimatur of the cardinal, they have been reduced to helpless, confused and pathetic souls who are slandering each other.

**—VIVIAN ORCILLAS, 5110 Don Pedro St., Makati City**

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# Taiwan president hopes China gamble pays off

**NEWS ANALYSIS**

*Benjamin Kang Lim*

TAIPEI—In less than a week, Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian has thumbed his nose at China's leadership and also offered to restart talks on their tinderbox relationship.

It looks like a high-risk game but one political analyst believe Chen thinks he can win. If he succeeds, China, under the watchful gaze of Washington, may feel pressured to start talks again with the island which it has wanted to take back for so long.

Chen's powerful pro-independence supporters at home may also be placated by his rhetoric and at the same time the mass of voters in Taiwan's political center may feel he is the man to reelect in 2004 presidential elections.

"He is trying to please both international and domestic audiences," said George Tsai, a China watcher at the National Chengchi University's Institute of International Relations.

In his latest overture, Chen said on Thursday he wanted to send an envoy to "sip tea" and begin fence-mending talks.

Formal negotiations between both sides broke down in 1999 when former President Lee Teng-hui, now a Chen supporter, unilaterally redefined ties with China as a "special state-state" affair, a shock at the time to Beijing which insists Taiwan is, and has always been, part of China.

Yet on Tuesday, Chen publicly wrote off China's heir apparent Hu Jintao, saying it would be "very difficult to have excessive expectations" of a breakthrough in bilateral ties if China's 59-year-old vice president took over from Jiang Zemin.

Chen also said it was "very strange" for Hu to be anointed China's heir apparent without democratic elections.

Chen's taunting of Hu placates the president's most ardent supporters, who demand nothing short of independence from China, and stokes nationalist sentiment against what they see as the big bad bully in Beijing.

Former president Lee Teng-hui is worried Taiwan is over-dependent on China and that the two are edging too close and too fast on the economic front. Lee still wields considerable influence and has tried to sway government policy and slow economic integration with the mainland.

Chen said if Hu does succeed Jiang as general secretary of the Communist Party in autumn and as president next year, the power behind the throne meant Hu might not have the final say on Taiwan and other key issues.

"President Chen's assessment of Hu Jintao is basically accurate, but it is inappropriate for the president to say it," said Tsai, the China watcher.

"He wants talks with the mainland because it would be a boon to his reelection bid, but he refuses to let Beijing dictate the agenda," Tsai added.

Overt US support, including a pledge by President George W. Bush to help defend and arm the island, has emboldened Chen to give Taiwan a new identity distinct from China through incremental steps.

But some China watchers in Taiwan fear Chen's swipe at Hu could poison delicate bilateral ties and narrow any window of opportunity for the two rivals to resume dialogue.

"It's neither conducive to the development of cross-Strait ties nor dialogue between top leaders of the two sides," said Wang Ming-yi, a political commentator of the mass circulation China Times newspaper.

Opposition deputies said with not much to show for his China policy, Chen is counting on his overture to turn attention away from Taiwan's crippling drought, economic slump and record unemployment.

"He's looking for an excuse to deflect blame in case cross-strait relations remain deadlocked two years from now," said Soochow University political scientist Yang Kai-huang. ***Reuters***

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## Demolition job on GSIS chief?

I WRITE to you as the aggrieved target of two news stories written by Christian V. Esguerra concerning my alleged imminent replacement as president-general manager of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

The initial story, with the head "Graceful exit for GSIS' Garcia?" (PDI, 4/25/02) sought to show that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is "shopping around for a replacement." The whole story is supposedly based on an interview with an unnamed source quoting Finance Undersecretary Inocencio V. Ferrer. The story, which is of course totally baseless, says that the source has documents to prove that my health is failing. My failing health would then be used as a basis for my graceful removal by Malacañang. At least that was what the source allegedly said, which was copiously quoted by Esguerra.

That initial story, quoting an unnamed source who in turn is quoting Ferrer, lacked the crucial element of corroboration from Ferrer himself. The fifth paragraph of that story, however, was honest enough to admit that the Inquirer "tried but failed to reach Ferrer yesterday." And yet your reporter merrily went ahead freely quoting that source, who made all sorts of damaging allegations against me. The whole story was designed to give the impression that the unnamed source was Ferrer himself.

The question, of course, is why that story was printed at all. I'm not even complaining about the fact that no effort was made to seek my side of the story, but couldn't that story have waited another day—in the name of fairness—until Ferrer himself could corroborate the damaging allegations made by Esguerra's unnamed source?

At first, I was not inclined to react to that story, no matter how unfair and damaging it was. But in your issue on April 26, your reporter came up with another big one, this time quoting a group of government workers who want my head for alleged malfeasance in office over cash advances of P5.3 million and an allegedly irregular P1-billion loan to the Public Estates Authority. So I said to myself this is the last straw.

The issues raised against me by my detractors were all amply answered in a letter I recently wrote to Finance Secretary Isidro Camacho. Enclosed is a copy of that letter, which is self-explanatory.

Clearly, some sinister political force or forces are out to do a demolition job against me. I came to this conclusion after noting that Esguerra's stories are identical with stories that have come out in another newspaper. The phrases and wordings are the same, indicating that the whole thing is a coordinated campaign against me. I enclose for your perusal copies of the news clippings that show the similarities in slant and phraseology.

I am just a low-profile Cebuano who has given his best in the most honest ways conceivable, to initiate much-needed reforms in the GSIS. In the course of my work, I have discovered to my dismay that to stay secure in one's official position, it is not enough to be merely honest and competent. Staying secure means satisfying other norms of conduct as well, many of them unsavory, but to discuss it here would be to digress.

Allow me to put it this way. It is dawning on me that the ways of big city politics are sometimes strange and complicated. In my case, I find myself in the focus of a well-orchestrated demolition job even as I try to do what is right. Those who aspire to replace me want the power in my hands to attain their selfish political and financial ends.

I have always maintained that if my detractors have an iota of evidence showing that I have betrayed my oath as a public servant, then they should go to court or at the very least, present their evidence to the Office of the President instead of waging a smear campaign in the media. Such a campaign only diminishes the faith of the public in the national government.

If respectable newspapers like the Inquirer allow themselves to be used as instruments in such a smear campaign, then we might as well start asking ourselves where this country is headed. I have always believed that having a strong but responsible media is a vital ingredient in nation building.

**—WINSTON F. GARCIA, president and general manager, Government Service Insurance System, Financial Center, Pasay City**

*MY two stories about the controversy at the Government Service Insurance System are neither baseless nor a part of a demolition job against Winston Garcia.*

*For the first story, titled "Graceful exit for GSIS' Garcia?" I interviewed two GSIS lawyers—Albert Garcia and Mario Molina—who were present in a closed-door meeting with Finance Undersecretary Inocencio Ferrer Jr. It was in that meeting that Ferrer informed them that Malacañang was planning to give Garcia a graceful exit by using his reported health problem as the reason for his replacement, according to the lawyers who occupy top management positions.*

*On the day before the story was published, I tried the entire afternoon to get in touch with Ferrer to corroborate the statements by Molina and Garcia, but his secretary told me that he was either "attending a meeting outside the office" or "not feeling well."*

*Garcia was also lying when he claimed that "no effort was made to seek my side of the story." I was able to interview him through his cellular phone on the same day that I tried to contact Ferrer. He denied all the allegations made against him by the GSIS employees and insisted that he was healthy, though under strict diet. His statements were published in my article. I wonder what he was complaining about.*

*Garcia claimed he came to the conclusion that there was a demolition job against him after he read my second article, "Courage urges probe of Garcia." He claimed it was "identical" with another story that came out in the People's Journal.*

*I can barely make sense of his outrageous allegation, but perhaps he was referring to a statement by Courage, which appeared in my article and that of the People's Journal. I have not heard from the Journal reporter, Jun Fugnit. And may I remind Garcia that both stories were partly based on a press statement issued by Courage. This explains the identical statements.*

*Last Thursday, I phoned Garcia to get his side on another GSIS article that I was supposed to write. To my surprise, he gave me a tongue-lashing, alleging that he knew "who's behind me" and "why I was spreading all these lies" against him. He said I was working for a certain "Ben Santos" who was rumored to be the person set to replace him. He gravely insulted me. I don't even know Santos. What the GSIS people were telling me was that Garcia would be replaced by former Justice Secretary Silvestre Bello III.*

*Over dinner with Inquirer editors one night two weeks ago, Dante Ang confirmed that Garcia was on his way out and that he was to be replaced by Ben Santos, a GSIS consultant and supposedly a Camacho man.*

*Still, Garcia insisted that being a "Southern Police Metro reporter," I should not meddle with the affairs of the GSIS, which is usually covered by finance beat reporters.*

*The GSIS, which is located in Pasay City, is geographically under my area of coverage. I began looking into it after Metro desk person Eric Olona and the business section instructed me to cover a rally by GSIS employees complaining about Garcia's alleged mismanagement of funds and oppressive policies. My report did not get published, but I was able to meet several people who could be sources for succeeding news stories and a number of documents detailing the alleged irregularities.*

*Last Friday morning I was surprised to get a call from Garcia. Having talked Thursday night to the city editor, who practically gave him a crash course on newspapering, he apologized for "everything he said."*

*"I was only stressed out," he told me. "After thinking things over last night, I realized I was wrong. Sorry."*

*"No problem," I said.*

**—CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA**

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*Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.*

## Did summit of parties succeed or not?

THERE seems to be a tug of war in judging the political summit held recently among the political parties. Was it a success or not?

No matter what others say, any gesture of extending the hands, hearts and minds in friendship and understanding can only be called a success.

Those who participated in the said summit who showed their genuine concern to achieve peace and unity regardless of political agendas for the sake of the country and people must be congratulated.

We are living in a very precarious period in our history as a nation. As such, all of us must do no less than to seek all means for the betterment of our people.

Those who objected and boycotted the summit should all the more have attended it to voice out their ideas and helped direct the summit to what they felt was the right thing to do. To boycott is to show lack of maturity, responsibility, let alone childish behavior.

We speak of changing our political system to a parliamentary form of government. I have espoused this idea a long time ago. The federal system is what I have second thoughts about owing to our unique cultural traits of "*tayo-tayo, kayo-kayo,*" and everyone's propensity to be the leader like what happens in the Filipino communities abroad. We must all get rid of this self-destructive attitude to attain success as a people.

Charter change or "cha-cha," a move I've favored long ago, will still take a long time before it can be implemented. It has long been overdue. While we wait for the ironing out of the defects in our Constitution, could we at least spell out the enabling laws on some of its provisions—one of which is the anti-political dynasty provision which is not in effect for lack of an enabling law from Congress? There are several other provisions which need enabling laws to help put them in the right direction and give sanity to our present system.

All this I've often wondered about!

**—MANUEL L. MORATO, 192-194 Tomas Morato Ave., QC**

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## The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

# Pipe bomb suspect aimed for 'smiley face' across US

**RENO, Nev.—The 21-year-old college student accused of planting pipe bombs across the US Midwest planned to arrange the devices in the shape of a giant "smiley face" stretching across the map of the United States, authorities said on Thursday.**

Police said Luke Helder, an art student at the University of Wisconsin-Stout, divulged his design after he was arrested on Tuesday outside Reno, Nevada.

"Immediately after he was taken into custody, in a conversation with one of my deputies, he said something to the effect when he is finished he wanted to make a smiley face," Pershing County, Nevada, Sheriff Ron Skinner said.

Helder has been accused of depositing 18 pipe bombs in rural mailboxes in five states—Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Colorado and Texas—injuring six people.

The bombs that were found were placed in two circles, one in Illinois and Iowa and another in Nebraska, that could appear to be the "eyes" of a smiley face—a simple smiling icon that has remained popular since it was introduced in the 1970s.

Skinner said Helder's smiley face comments only deepened the mystery surrounding the bombing spree. "Nobody really knows what he meant by that. It is open to interpretation," he said.

Helder, a Minnesota native, made a brief appearance in federal court in Reno on Wednesday. He was due to be transferred to Iowa for another court hearing on Friday.

On Thursday, the suspect's parents, Cameron Helder and Pamela Helder, visited their son for the first time since his arrest and apologized to the victims of the attacks that sparked officials to warn of "domestic terrorism." He has been held under a suicide watch.

"We are here to see our son in his hour of need," Cameron Helder told reporters after meeting with his son. "It's already been very hard on us, and my heart goes out to the families of the victims and the victims. We're really sorry."

Helder was captured on Tuesday following a high-speed car chase outside Reno. The FBI said later that he confessed to planting the string of pipe bombs that unnerved large sections of the central United States over the past week.

Helder has been charged with separate criminal counts relating to bombings in Iowa, Illinois and Nebraska, and more charges are expected.

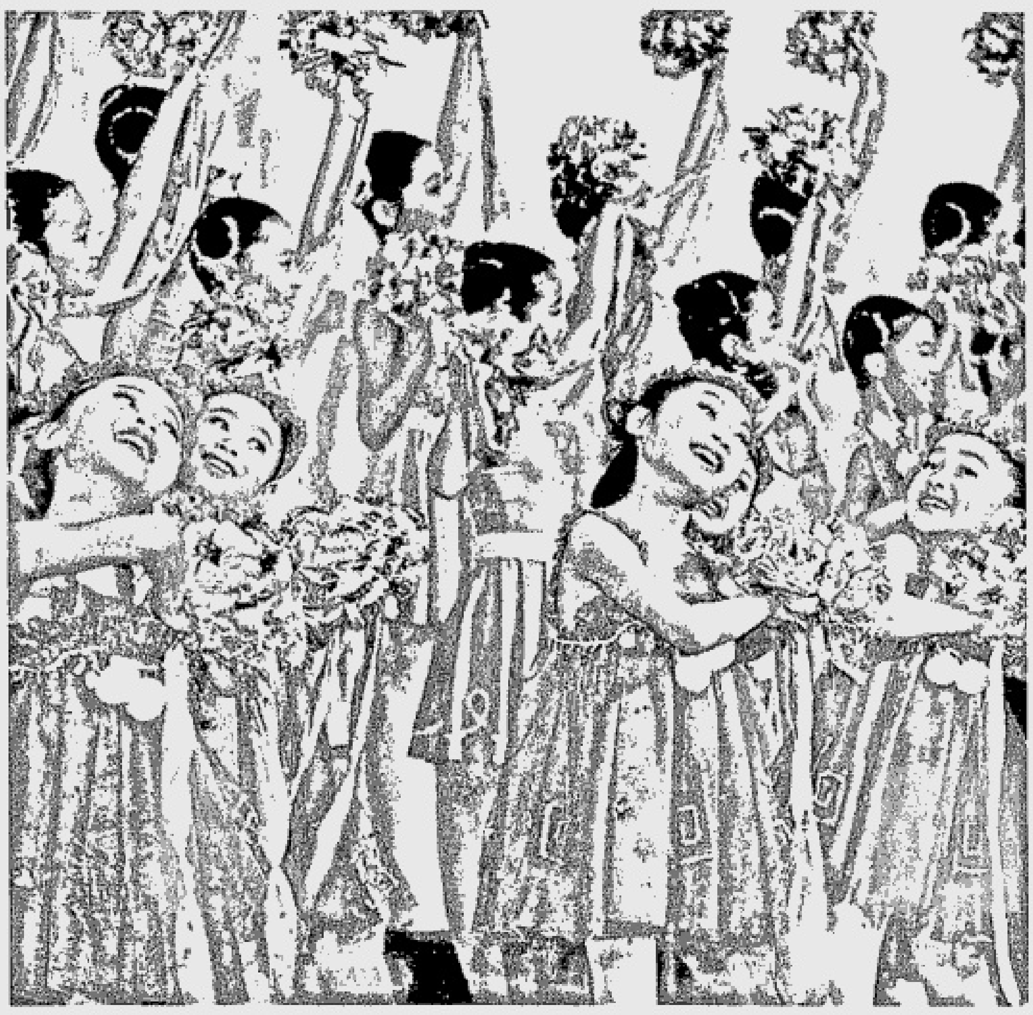
Helder could face 30 years to life in prison if convicted. He was ordered held without bail on Wednesday after a federal judge raised questions about his mental state.

The Rev. Dennis Kampa, a family priest, said Helder, who once played in a rock band called "Apathy" and has smiled broadly for photographers since his capture, does not seem to realize just how much trouble he is in.

"The mother just mentioned that she was so worried because she thought that Luke did not understand the seriousness of all of this," Kampa told reporters after meeting with the family.

"The statement that she made to me was that Luke had said, 'Do you think I'll go to jail because of this?'"

*Reuters*



AFP

**HOW TO MELT BANKERS' HEARTS** Chinese children perform a song-and-dance number during the opening of the 35th Asian Development Bank annual meeting in Shanghai, May 10. ADB's 60-member board of directors, including 43 Asia-Pacific finance officials, meet from Friday to Sunday in China's financial capital.

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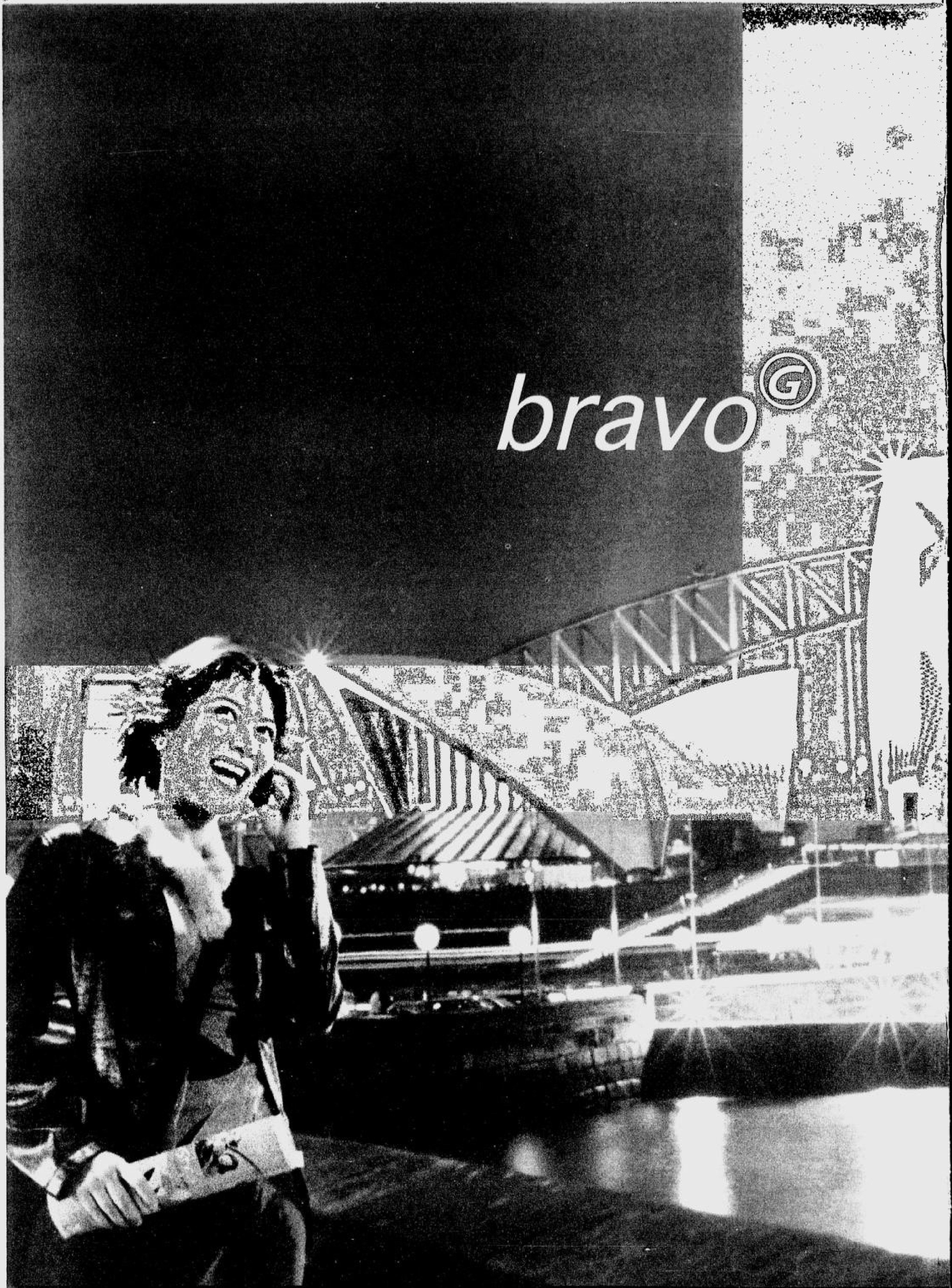

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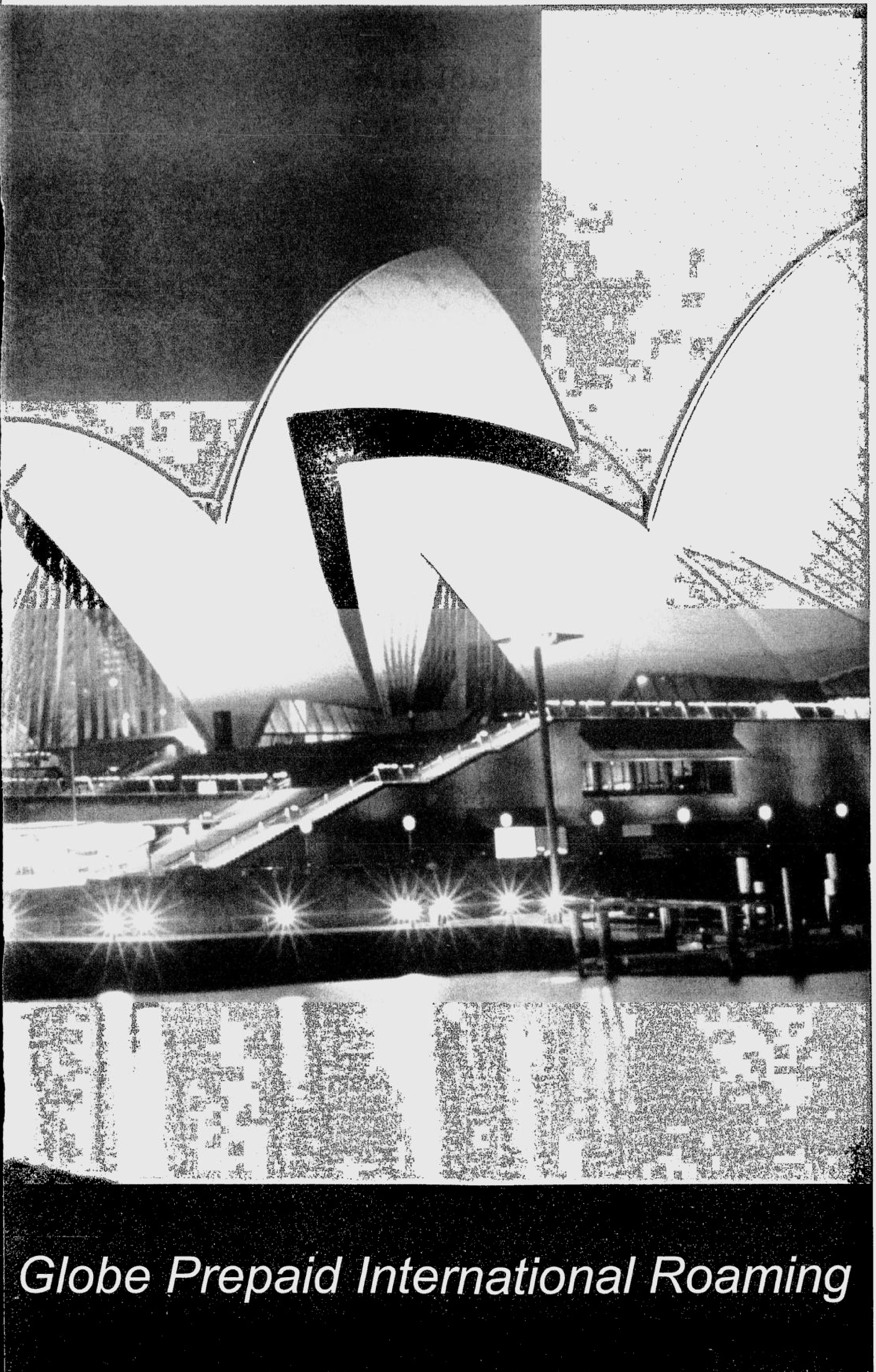
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# 34 killed as bomb blast hits Victory Day parade in Russia

MOSCOW—A blast tore through a Victory Day parade in a southern Russian republic bordering rebel Chechnya on Thursday, killing at least 34 people, including 12 children.

President Vladimir Putin vowed to hunt down and punish the attackers, whom he described as "scum" who should be treated like Nazis.

US President George W. Bush described the blast as "an evil act of terrorism" and said the United States was angered and saddened by the deaths.

Putin blamed the attack in the Caspian Sea port of Kaspiisk on "terrorists," the usual Kremlin term to describe separatist Chechen rebels. Chechnya neighbors the impoverished province of Dagestan where the attack took place.

"This crime was carried out by scum who hold nothing sacred," an ashen Putin told a solemn Kremlin reception after a parade in Moscow's Red Square to mark the defeat of Nazi Germany 57 years ago.

"We have every right to treat them as Nazis, whose sole aim was to spread death, sow fear and to murder," he said. The audience observed a minute of silence.

In Washington, Bush said in a statement: "Of particular concern is that this evil act of terrorism occurred on a holiday when Russia celebrates its World War Two victory over fascism, and at a time when our nations are allied once again in a war against global terror," he said in a statement in Washington.

In Paris, the French Foreign Ministry said in a statement: "France vigorously condemns the very serious attack which took place this morning in Dagestan, on the very day that all of Russia celebrates the end of World War II and the victory over Nazism.

"France addresses its condolences and its sympathy to the families of the victims and to the Russian authorities. Nothing can justify such acts."

France itself is reeling from the suicide bomb attack which killed 12 French Navy experts in Pakistan on Wednesday. The United States was devastated by terror attacks on New York and the Pentagon near Washington last Sept. 11.

Putin has made combating terrorism a rallying cry of his two-year-old rule, and says Russia is fighting the same brand of Muslim militants in Chechnya that Washington blames for the Sept. 11 suicide attacks on the United States.

Police said a remote-controlled mine hidden in bushes exploded as a military band surrounded by children and World War II veterans marched through Kaspiisk, home to a big a military base some 1,600 km south of Moscow.

The death toll rose quickly, the regional emergencies ministry saying by early evening that 34 people, including 12 children, had died, Interfax reported.

Abdul Musayev, head of the regional interior ministry press office, said the device contained nuts, bolts and nails to cause maximum injury. Some 150 people were injured.

Dagestani authorities, which announced a day of mourning for Friday, blamed lax security for the attack, news agencies said

In November 1996, a blast flattened a military barracks in the same town, killing 68 people, mostly service personnel but including around 20 children. Though it remains unsolved, some officials blamed Chechen rebels, while others said it may have been linked to gang wars over black market Caspian Sea caviar.

Moscow police beefed up security in the capital after Thursday's attack, the bloodiest in Russia since apartment house bombings in 1999 killed more than 300 people. The Kremlin blamed Chechens. One of those apartment block bombs hit the Dagestani town of Buinaksk, some 40 km from Kaspiisk.. **Reuters**

**SON OF TARZAN**
**A two-week-old red river hog checks in with its father, Tarzan, May 8 at the San Diego Zoo in California. Red river hogs are at risk of becoming endangered in their native Africa. The zoo is responsible for the first successful breeding of the species in the Western Hemisphere.**

AFP

AFP

**GRAVE WATCH**
**Afghani children sit beside a poppy field and watch as coalition forces headed by the US Army Criminal Investigation Division unearth graves in their village of Markhanai on May 5. The coalition forces came across 23 graves in Markhanai believed to be those of Arab fighters.**

GLOBAL WARMING

## Gigantic ice shelf falls near Antarctica

WASHINGTON—A huge ice shelf 10 times bigger than Manhattan has plummeted into the sea near Antarctica, US government scientists said on Thursday, adding urgency to warnings that global temperatures are rising for the worse.

The news follows the March collapse of the so-called Larsen B ice shelf in Antarctica in the Weddell Sea near Chile—which was the size of a small European country.

The collapse on the Ross ice shelf—in the Ross Sea—is about 41 nautical miles long and 4 nautical miles wide.

It was spotted by the National Ice Center in Suitland, Maryland, which analyzed infrared photos taken on May 5 by a military satellite. The collapse likely occurred over the last two weeks, a spokesperson for the center said.

The Ice Center gathers data for the US Department of Defense, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and US Coast Guard.

The collapse is a result of so-called calving, as constant motion by polar ice caps fractures the ice into sometimes-large fragments that float loose into the sea.

Green groups pointed to the ice shelf collapses as evidence that emissions of greenhouse gases are causing global temperatures to rise and the polar ice caps to melt.

For meteorological reasons, glaciers are one of the first indicators of rising planetary temperatures, said Kalee Kreider, a global warming expert at the National Environmental Trust.

"They're a canary in the coal mine for the global warming trend," Kreider said.

Carbon emissions from power plants and factories have been linked to global warming, which scientists warn could lead to massive flooding and rising ocean levels. The United States is the world's largest emitter of so-called greenhouse gases. **Reuters**

## *Those boys really will be the death of you, Mom*

**By Maggie Fox**

WASHINGTON—Mothers who have complained through the centuries that their sons will be the death of them may be right—a Finnish study published on Thursday shows having boys shortens a woman's life span.

Each son takes an average of 34 weeks off a woman's life span, evolutionary biologist Samuli Helle and colleagues at the University of Turku found.

On the other hand, having daughters adds, but only very slightly, to a woman's life span, said the report in Friday's issue of the journal Science.

Helle, a Ph.D student at the university, was trying to prove having large families could cause women to die early. But his study of church records among the Sami people of northern Scandinavia found that family size could not predict reliably that a woman would die young.

"We found that maternal longevity was not related to the total number of children born or raised to adulthood, suggesting that large families were raised by wealthy individuals," the researchers wrote in their report.

"That's a bit surprising . . . because theory predicts there should be a negative effect," Helle said in a telephone interview.

"But I think, in our case because we have no data about individual wealth, it would be that those with the highest status and wealth could afford both to have many children and had a long life span."

Helle and colleagues looked at birth and marriage records of Sami people from 1640 to 1870. "These Sami depended mainly on reindeer herding, fishing and hunting for their livelihood and experienced natural mortality because of a lack of advanced medical care," they wrote.

They only looked at women who lived to be over 50, and took into account whether a woman's husband had died, since raising a family alone would be stressful.

"Our results suggest that giving birth to sons had a higher relative long-term survival cost for mothers than giving birth to and raising daughters," they wrote. **Reuters**

## Maryland stays all executions

ANNAPOLIS, Md.—Maryland on Thursday became the second US state to declare a moratorium on executions, citing "reasonable questions" about the integrity of capital punishment within its own boundaries and across the nation.

Gov. Parris Glendening announced he would stay all executions until the University of Maryland completes an intensive study of 6,000 homicide cases to determine whether the state system for imposing the death penalty is fraught with racial and geographic bias.

"Reasonable questions have been raised in Maryland and across the country about the application of the death penalty," said Glendening, noting that recent studies have produced evidence pointing to racial bias in capital murder cases in largely white and suburban Baltimore County.

"There is a logical inconsistency to say we're reviewing the fairness and justice of the death penalty process, and in the meantime, we're going to execute," he told a news conference.

The study, initiated in 2000 at the urging of black state legislators, is due to be completed in September. **Reuters**

AFP

**FOR ONLY 20 CENTS**
**Kartick Sarkar (left), a "street dentist," cleans the teeth of a patient using his own invented medicine in a street in Calcutta, May 10 as pedestrians watch. Sarkar, who never went through any formal medical training, claims he can cure all dental problems with his medicine which cost only ten rupees ($0.20) for one tooth.**

## Nanjing victim wins key battle in Japan court

TOKYO—An 83-year-old Chinese woman who survived the infamous Nanjing massacre won a key legal battle on Friday when a Japanese court ruled she had been defamed by a book that accused her of falsifying her experience.

The Tokyo district court ordered Toshio Matsumura, author of "Big Doubts about the Nanjing Massacre" and the book's publishers to pay a total of $11,640 to Li Xiuying, who the book said had falsely claimed to have survived the massacre.

But the ruling, delivered by presiding judge Koji Okahisa, rejected Li's demand that the defendants publish apologies in major Japanese newspapers.

Li's 1999 lawsuit said she barely escaped with her life after being stabbed repeatedly by Japanese soldiers as they rampaged through the eastern city of Nanjing in December 1937 and cited a film of her in hospital taken by a foreign missionary.

The lawsuit said Matsumura's book had defamed Li's character by saying she was faking her identity and falsely claiming to be the woman in that film.

Lawyers for the plaintiff praised the ruling, saying in a statement that it dealt a "huge blow" to "groups that distort history."

"It is a very worthy ruling since it recognized a suitable compensation fee and that there was a defamation of Li's character," Hiroshi Oyama, who heads a group of lawyers representing Li, told a news conference.

"Our basic stance was almost completely recognized," said Oyama, who did not rule out an appeal but expressed satisfaction with the ruling. Li, who had sought 12 million yen in compensation, was not present to hear the verdict.

Hiroaki Aizawa, president of publishing firm Tendensha, said he would appeal the ruling as it could impede future historical research. **Reuters**

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# Across the NATION

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# New anti-terror law in US to lay off 1,000 Filipinos

**BAGUIO CITY—More than 1,000 Filipinos working in airports in the United States are facing lay off with the enactment of the US Aviation Security Act this year, according to Filipino workers abroad.**

The act, which will be implemented in November this year, requires all non-US citizens working in US airports to become US citizens if they desire to continue staying in their jobs.

"Filipino workers in US airports have been one of the hardest-hit by (US President George) Bush's war against terrorism. This is a clear case of 'ethnic cleansing' (for those who are non-US citizens)," Rhonda Ramero, chair of US-based Committee on Human Rights in the Philippines, told the INQUIRER.

CHRP is a non-government organization based in San Francisco, California, that documents cases of racism and assault on Filipino immigrants and workers in the United States.

Ramero said these Filipino workers, most of them airport baggage checkers, have been working for more than 14 years in the United States. She said the workers receive minimum wages but work under difficult conditions.

Guillermo Ponce de Leon, a packing attendant at the San Francisco Airport for five years, said their group is demanding an explanation from the US government on the enactment of the law.

"The law is very illogical. If you want to be in the US military, you do not have to be a US citizen. If you want to work as a mechanic, you do not have to be a US citizen. But why do you have to be a US citizen if you are going to work as a bag checker?" De Leon said during a conference of international labor unions here this week.

De Leon said the San Francisco-based Filipino Workers Association (FWA) has started moves to protest the law. He disclosed that the US government is setting aside $100 million this year for the training of 60,000 American citizens who would replace the bag checkers who are non-US citizens.

De Leon, a member of the FWA, said, móst of these Filipino workers are green card holders.

Ramero said there are 28,000 baggage checkers working in various US airports. About 7,000 of them are non-US citizens. At least 2,000 of these non-US citizens are Filipinos while the other workers are Hispanics, Africans and Europeans.

An airport baggage checker earns a monthly minimum wage of $2,000.

"If a Filipino loses this job, it is a major negative impact in many Filipino families because a worker would fail to send home dollar remittances," said Ramero.

"We are protesting the legislation because it is racist. This law prohibits the right of immigrants to work. The US government has panicked too much after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks," De Leon said. ***Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

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# 8 rebels, including 3 minors, captured after gunfight with soldiers

TAGBILARAN CITY—Eight suspected rebels, three of them minors including a girl, were arrested in Bohol while hundreds of kilometers away, a rebel was killed and two were wounded in an encounter in Zambales.

The eight rebels were captured by a joint police and military team after a 20-minute firefight on Thursday in Barangay Candasig, Balilihan, Bohol.

An elderly woman, Cecilia Tambis, 70, in whose house the suspected rebels had taken refuge, was critically injured after she was shot in the legs and the right arm. Her right leg was amputated.

Two of the minors were also slightly injured. A soldier, Cpl. Jose Babano, was also wounded in the left leg.

The minors—an 18-year-old girl and two boys aged 16 and 18—will be turned over to the custody of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, said Capt. Raul Mendez, civil military operations officer of the Army's 302nd Brigade.

Mendez identified those arrested as Francis Jude Alegarbes, 28, of Basak, Pardo, Cebu City; Armando Payot, 23, of Sta. Cruz, Batuan, Bohol; Proculo Tandog, 25, of Jagbuaya, Catigbian; Federico Bugas, 23, of Tultugan, Calape, Bohol; and Alfredo Yodico, 21, of Ermita, Cebu City.

Yodico, alias Clifford, was said to be the assistant team leader of the squad. The alleged leader of the group, a certain Commander Red eluded arrest.

The government troopers led by Lt. Dennis Cuaresma of the 17th Special Forces company based in Candumayaw, Catigbian recovered an M-14 and five M-16 Armalite rifles, three handguns and communist documents aside from personal belongings.

Interviewed before investigators questioned her yesterday, the girl said she was in fourth year night high school at the University of Bohol last school year. She claimed she went full time in the underground last January.

A teary-eyed father of one of the minors said he was glad to see his son but sad that it was at the detention cell in Camp Dagohoy.

"I had been desperately looking for him for the last two weeks," the 60-year-old father told the INQUIRER in Cebuano.

The Commission on Human Rights in Central Visayas said it would investigate the encounter because a civilian and minors were wounded.

In Castillejos, Zambales, a suspected rebel was killed while two of his companions were wounded in a shootout with policemen in Barangay San Nicolas on Monday, police said.

Insp. Johnny Pascasio, town police chief, identified the fatality only as Ka Badong, 25, who was believed to be a member of the breakaway group of the Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan based in southern Zambales.

Police captured suspected RHB member Jesus Serrano, 22, of Floridablanca, Pampanga, while his companion, Ka Reggie, fled. Both rebels were wounded, Pascasio said.

Witnesses said they saw a wounded rebel escaping toward the Balaybay area, a Mt. Pinatubo resettlement center, about 3 km from the house of Gov. Vicente Magsaysay. ***Chito Fuentes and Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau and Cesar Villa and Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

# Cops arrest suspect in rob-slaying

DUMAGUETE CITY—A casual employee of the Sta. Catalina municipal government was arrested yesterday after he was tagged as one of the three suspects in Wednesday's robbery-slaying of his fellow municipal workers in Bayawan City, Negros Oriental.

Chief Insp. Alexander Gaudiano, the police director of Bayawan City, identified the suspect as Jaime Amaro Jr., 27, a resident of Guba, Sta. Catalina, and a driver of the municipal government.

Gaudiano said a witness positively identified Amaro as one of the suspects.

Police have also identified one of two other suspects, a certain "Ka Drilon" who was said to be a rebel belonging to the breakaway Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPA-ABB).

The identification of the suspects supported an earlier theory that the victims knew the robbers, the reason why they were killed.

Senior Supt. Drusillo Bolodo, police director of Negros Oriental, said the suspects were identified from the sketches of a National Bureau of Investigation artist, who interviewed the witnesses last Thursday. ***Romy Amarado and Alex Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau***

# Amor Agoncillo, 45

AMOR Mercedes U. Agoncillo died of a heart attack last Thursday afternoon.

She was 45.

She was survived by daughter Jolina, son-in-law Joel Jayco, sister Cherry and brother Sonny.

Her remains lie at Chapel G of the Loyola Memorial Chapel in Guadalupe, Makati City.

Necrological services will be held tonight at 8 p.m. Her remains will be cremated after the necrological services.

Her family requests relatives and friends to pray for her soul.

GERMAN POWER AND ELECTRONICS EXPERT ARRIVING IN MANILA

Mr. Hans Oppermann, General Manager of SUN POWER SOLARTECHNIK GmBH based in Frankfurt, Germany is arriving this Saturday, May 11 to meet with PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEMS SUPPLIERS. A first meeting will be at Westin Philippine Plaza on Sunday, May 12 at 3 p.m. and 3 p.m. and a similar meeting at EDSA Shangri-la Hotel on Monday, May 13 at 3 p.m. ATTENDANCE IS FREE.

Mr. Oppermann will give a demonstration of his trademark, Photovoltaic Uninterruptible Power Conditioning System (PV UP). He also developed among others, the High-efficiency Sineware Converter for Stand-alone and Grid-connected Applications, MPP Tracking Charge Controller, Solar Generator Simulator, Solar Cell Analyzer, Multi-channel Tester, Solar Generator Tester, Fuel Cell Test Equipment, and Fuel Cell Analyzer.

For more reservation, please call: Lozano (Sonny) Gordovez at (0916) 428-8525, Linda M. Fernandez at (0919) 614-1308 or Leslie L. Berbano at 272-6365; (0916) 427-3644.

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Talks : Threats to Motherhood — Ms.Marilou Diaz Abaya
How Mary Would Have Lived Today — Sr. Briege McKenna,OSC
AVPs : "On Threats To Motherhood"
"Role Of Mothers In Nation Building"
Production Numbers : Jeanne Young with Women & Children
Vernie Varga & daughter, Katrina
Loudette Banzon and EDSA Shrine Kids
Pinky Marquez Perla Adea
Jamie Rivera Carol Banawa
Regine Velasquez
Introduction to The 4th World Meeting of Families — Committee Executive Secretary Henrietta T. de Villa
Emcees : Chat Silayan
Loudette Banzon

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# Congressman loses round in battle vs land reform

**By Romy G. Amarado**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

DUMAGUETE CITY—An agrarian court has upheld the right of agrarian reform beneficiaries over a 33-hectare land owned by Negros Oriental third district Rep. Herminio Teves.

The Department of Agrarian Reform Adjudication Board (Darab) dismissed last month a motion for reconsideration filed by Teves which sought to reverse an earlier decision of the board in favor of the beneficiaries.

Teves could not be reached for comment yesterday.

The case stemmed from a complaint filed by 13 beneficiaries on June 11, 1998 with the Regional Agrarian Reform Adjudicator (Rarad) asking for the enforcement of their rights over the 33-hectare agricultural land located in Barangay Caranoche, Bayawan City, some 105 km south of here.

The disputed land is part of the 54-hectare property that originally belonged to Lourdes and Antonio Calumpang, but was sold to the late former senator Lorenzo Teves, brother of Herminio.

Twenty-two hectares of the property had previously been covered by Operation Land Transfer under Presidential Decree 27 of former President Ferdinand Marcos.

Sometime in the mid-1990s the remaining 33 hectares were voluntarily offered for sale under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP), through Lorenzo's lawyer, Ariston Teves.

Later, the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) issued a Certificate of Land Ownership Award (CLOA) to the beneficiaries and it was registered with the Register of Deeds on May 9, 1997.

But the beneficiaries—Francisco Cacas, Eluteria Pabroa, Josefa Tenasas, Rolando Flores, Rodrigo Rombinez, Genovero Dacula, Eva Lajot, Demetria Gabonita, Ronilo Flores, Romaldo Hoyohoy, Pedro Binibili and Joel Torres—claimed that they were unable to own the property because Representative Teves was in actual possession of the lot.

This prompted the beneficiaries to file a complaint with the Rarad. The lawyers of the legal department of the Provincial Agrarian Reform Office (Paro) stood as their counsels.

Herminio claimed that he was the owner of the property by virtue of a Memorandum of Agreement entered into between him and his brother Lorenzo on Oct. 3, 1988.

In his motion to dismiss the complaint, Representative Teves insisted that the Rarad has no jurisdiction over the case and that the complainants had no cause of action.

On March 1, 1999 the Rarad rendered a decision upholding the validity of the CLOA and ordered Teves to immediately "turn over physical possession" of the lot to the complainants.

Teves then filed an appeal with the Darab on March 16, 1999. On Nov. 16, 2000, the board affirmed the decision of Rarad, prompting the congressman to file a motion for reconsideration. But the Darab, in its decision promulgated last April 2, dismissed the motion for lack of merit.

Rafael Orillana of the legal department of Paro told the INQUIRER that his office would file a motion with the Darab for the execution of the decision.

He, however, said that Teves could still file an appeal with the Court of Appeals.

# Measures vs pollution force plant to close

**By Carla Gomez**
**and Nestor Burgos Jr.**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

BACOLOD CITY—The Cosmos Visayas Bottlers Inc., which produces Jaz Cola, has decided to close down its plant here shortly after the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ordered them to comply with environmental standards.

Charles Golingay, Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Bacolod Plant human resource manager, said the plant closed down on May 6. Cosmos is a subsidiary of Coca-Cola.

All the 155 affected employees would receive a "generous" compensation package, which, he said, was way above what the labor law requires.

Livelihood workshops would also be offered to the displaced workers, he added.

In its notice of termination to the Department of Labor and Employment, the Cosmos said the company decided to close down the plant and terminate the employees because it would be too costly to rehabilitate, operate and maintain the plant.

"The decision was reached after the Jaz Bacolod Plant was found to be in violation of standards of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources," said Cosmos in a statement released to reporters in Bacolod.

The statement said "exhaustive" study had shown that rehabilitating the facility in order to comply with the DENR standards "would not be economically feasible."

With the closure of its production facility, Cosmos said other more modern and technologically advanced Cosmos plants in the Visayas would supply the demand for Cosmos products in the region.

The company did not say what were the environmental standards it had violated but the DENR regional office based in Iloilo City said it pertained to the Cosmos plant's water treatment facility.

Roben Calvo, director of the DENR-8 Environment and Management Board, said that based on laboratory findings, the plant was not fully maintained and had inadequate wastewater treatment facility.

He said the Cosmos management had submitted to the Pollution Adjudication Board (PAB) a plan to consolidate its two plants. The plan was supposed to include the construction of a new water treatment facility in the Alijis plant in Bacolod City.

A MOSQUE in Talunkasay, Zamboanga City is a picture of serenity amid the hunt for Islamic militants in various parts of Mindanao. VAL HANDUMON

# BFAR warns Bolinao folk against eating seaweed

DAGUPAN CITY—The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources has issued an advisory in Bolinao town against eating colet (*Acanthopora spinoza*), a kind of seaweed traditionally eaten by residents there.

Last April, three teenagers from Santiago Island in Bolinao died while six others fell ill after eating colet.

Westly Rosario, BFAR research center chief here, said BFAR Director Malcolm Soriano has signed the advisory, a copy of which was sent to Bolinao Mayor Jesus Celeste.

But officials of the University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute said it was neither the eggs of the puffer fish (*butete*, a highly toxic species) nor the seaweed that caused the death of the three teenagers, but toxins from the harmful blue-green algae (*dinoflagellates*) that settled on the seaweed.

The UPMSI conducted an initial test on the seaweed taken from Bolinao's waters.

Nemesio Montaño, UPMSI deputy director, said the institute is sending samples of the seaweed to the United States to verify the toxin that caused the death of the three teenagers.

He said experts on *dinoflagellate* toxins are also coming to Bolinao to conduct tests on the algae.

Montaño said there had been cases of poisoning in Japan and Hawaii after victims ate seaweed where the blue-green algae had settled.

"Different kinds of algae produce different toxins. Whatever caused the death of the three residents was highly toxic because the (laboratory) mouse fed with the seaweed died minutes after eating (it)," Montaño said.

"The toxin from the algae is not absorbed by the seaweed but this settles on the seaweed's surface and is not easily washed off."

The institute wants to identify what algae caused the poisoning, he said, adding that one type of *dinoflagellate* causes red tide poisoning.

On April 29, Boyet Carassiosa, 19, and his brother Jose, 15, and Romy Carolino, 18, died after eating colet gathered from the Bolinao sea. Six other residents who ate the seaweed reportedly fell ill.

Initial BFAR reports said it could be the puffer fish's eggs that caused the poisoning.

Rosario later said a microscopic study on seaweed samples from Bolinao showed there were no puffer fish eggs found in the seaweed eaten by the victims.

He said the puffer fish does not lay eggs on seaweed areas but in a 20-meter deep portion of the sea. Seaweed, he said, grows on shallow parts of the sea. ***Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

# Angeles City dads seek mayor's suspension for graft

ANGELES CITY—The council here has sought the preventive suspension of Mayor Carmelo Lazatin for his alleged involvement in the illegal use of the P4.8-million public fund for Mt. Pinatubo victims in 1996.

In a 7-4 vote, the council approved on Thursday the resolution endorsing the motion of the Ombudsman for the suspension of Lazatin for violating Republic Act 3019 or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

On April 26, Ombudsman Prosecutor III Joselito Ferrer filed a motion with the Sandiganbayan seeking to suspend Lazatin, Mabalacat Mayor Marino Morales, municipal accountant Teodoro David, and municipal treasurer Angelito Pelayo.

The Sandiganbayan's third division is expected to act on Ferrer's motion on May 16.

Lazatin, Morales, David and Pelayo have repeatedly denied the accusations in their counter-affidavits.

On May 29 last year, the evaluation and preliminary investigation bureau (EPIB) of the office of the Ombudsman recommended the filing of 14 counts of malversation of public funds and violation of Section 3 of RA 3019 against the four officials.

The EPIB said on Oct. 31, 1996, the Department of Budget and Management released P12.8 million from the countrywide development fund (CDF) of then Representative Lazatin to Mabalacat for projects and programs for Pinatubo victims.

The EPIB said Lazatin was "both the proponent and implementor" of projects worth P4.8 million out of the total P12.8 million from his CDF.

It said "with the help" of his co-respondents, Lazatin converted his CDF into cash.

But Lazatin, Morales and their two co-respondents said they did not benefit from the application of the CDF and that the fund involved in the case was disbursed and used for the purpose for which it was intended.

They said Lazatin was only the proponent, and not the implementor, of the projects because it was the local government of Mabalacat that implemented them. ***Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

# Balweg men training for AFP integration

CAMP MELCHOR DE LA CRUZ, Isabela—Four female members of slain rebel priest Conrado Balweg's militia have joined rigorous training exercises at the Army grounds here to become full-fledged members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Rosalina Mucay, 27; Olive Ballay, 36; Hepelina Sangoy, 27; and Omeri Malayao, 32, said they would try to excel among the 330 Cordillera People's Liberation Army (CPLA) applicants whom President Macapagal-Arroyo had directed to be integrated into the AFP.

The CPLA military training course finally started here last week after months of delay.

Earlier, former Nueva Ecija Rep. Renato Diaz, presidential adviser for regional development in Northern Luzon, said in Baguio City that the government stalled for time, pending an evaluation of Malacañang's agenda for the region.

Malacañang had been studying why its 15-year-old peace agreement with Balweg is one of "a thousand laws," which the Macapagal administration had not been implementing, Diaz said.

He said President Macapagal-Arroyo had declared that the CPLA integration was in "faithful adherence" to the 1986 peace agreement forged by Balweg and former President Corazon Aquino.

But the CPLA faction loyal to Balweg criticized Ms Macapagal and her integration program for deliberately ignoring the Cordillera peace agreement.

On top of the CPLA complaint is the President's decision to sustain a directive by deposed President Joseph Estrada to wind up the operation of three special agencies tasked by law to govern the Cordillera Administrative Region.

Malacañang was sued by the CPLA Balweg faction before the Supreme Court for breaking the contractual provisions of Executive Order 220, said lawyer Nestor Atitiw, CPLA counsel.

Atitiw said the suit also covers the government's plan to integrate militiamen into the military, arguing that neither EO 220 nor the peace pact terms demanded the military integration, and consequent dissolution, of the CPLA.

Brig. Gen. Rodolfo Alvarado, 5th Infantry Division commander, said only 264 of the militiamen would be initially integrated into the AFP while 66 others would be accommodated in the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit and reserve forces. ***Villamor Visaya Jr. and Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

## WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Bicol region, Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy.

SOURCE: PAGASA

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Metro Manila** | Partly Cloudy | Hi 34° Lo 24° |
| **Baguio** | Partly Cloudy | Hi 26° Lo 16° |
| **Tuguegarao** | Partly Cloudy | Hi 37° Lo 23° |
| **Laoag** | Partly Cloudy | Hi 35° Lo 27° |
| **Clark Zone** | Partly Cloudy | Hi 35° Lo 24° |
| **Tagaytay** | Partly Cloudy | Hi 33° Lo 22° |
| **Legazpi** | Cloudy with Rains | Hi 31° Lo 25° |
| **Calapan** | Partly Cloudy | Hi 34° Lo 25° |
| **Iloilo/Bacolod** | Cloudy with Rains | Hi 33° Lo 25° |
| **Roxas** | Cloudy with Rains | Hi 32° Lo 26° |
| **Cebu** | Cloudy with Rains | Hi 31° Lo 25° |
| **Tacloban** | Cloudy with Rains | Hi 33° Lo 25° |
| **Gen. Santos** | Cloudy with Rains | Hi 32° Lo 25° |
| **Zamboanga** | Cloudy with Rains | Hi 31° Lo 26° |
| **Cagayan de Oro** | Cloudy with Rains | Hi 31° Lo 24° |
| **Davao** | Cloudy with Rains | Hi 31° Lo 25° |

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/05/11/02

# Gloria aide says suspending PPA doesn't make sense

BAGUIO CITY—What's the point of suspending a debt when you will end up paying it in the future?

President Macapagal-Arroyo's adviser for North Luzon development asserted this on Wednesday, the same day Ms Macapagal scaled down the purchased power adjustment (PPA) charge in all consumer bills from July to January 2003.

Former Nueva Ecija Rep. Renato Diaz, presidential adviser for regional development in Northern Luzon, told participants in a small- and medium enterprises (SME) conference here that the public would simply need to accept the PPA or face higher taxes.

"Because the government will have to pay these debts one way or another," he said.

The P1.25 per kilowatt-hour charge set in the PPA represents electricity, which the National Power Corp. (Napocor) is obliged to buy from the so-called independent power producers (IPP), contractors whom the government tapped to address the power crisis in the early 1990s.

Diaz said the PPA was a "small price to pay" for obtaining an abundance of electricity, which people clamored for at the height of blackouts that hit the country during the terms of former Presidents Corazon Aquino and Fidel Ramos.

"The government can either sell property, or issue new taxes or let consumers pay more (for electricity), but it really goes back to us. The public wanted the government to address the blackouts and we did. Now that solution has bred new problems, but postponing it will only make it worse," he said. "The buck stops with this government."

He said the alternative would be disastrous because civil works and priority projects would be sacrificed once the government completely subsidized the cost of IPP power.

In a subsequent press conference, Diaz expressed doubts on the government's efforts to renegotiate allegedly onerous contracts with 46 IPP contractors, which were forged to respond to the 1992 power crisis.

"A contract is still a contract," Diaz stressed, adding that government efforts have been made to draw investors with attractive incentives, similar to the contracts offered to the IPP investors by Malacañang between 1992 and 1997.

Two unions of the National Power Corp. (Napocor) assailed the IPP contracts from 1999 to 2001 because they oblige Napocor to buy all the electricity they generate, regardless of whether Napocor requires it or not, said Jimmy Salman, regional president of the Napocor Employees and Workers Union (Newu).

But Diaz, who was accompanied in the press conference by top officials of another IPP, the San Roque Power Corp. (SRPC), acknowledged that the review is mandatory and will cover all contracts, including the SRPC's.

Both the government and SRPC have been under criticism from militant groups and local government officials of Benguet for building the controversial San Roque Multipurpose Dam Project (SRMDP). ***Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

INQUIRER Visayas
Editor Jun Bandayrel ◉ Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

# Art, culture awaken sleepy town

**By Hazel P. Villa**
*Roxas City*

**WHAT would you do if you were bored in a vigil for the deceased and you have to stay awake till morning? Most would play *mahjong*, watch movies or simply talk the night away and gladly give the duty to the next shift.**

Not for the people of Panay centuries ago when the vigil was something they looked forward to because it was entertaining and actually fun—something present-day folks in urban areas would have frowned on.

During the Spanish occupation, said Hiligaynon poet John Iremil Teodoro, those attending vigils or *belasyon* would play games they called *bordon* where participants would sit in a circle and pass around a stone while singing. The one caught with a stone in his hand at the end of the song would have to entertain visitors and participants by reciting and acting out a *luwa* or a short funny poem that rhymes.

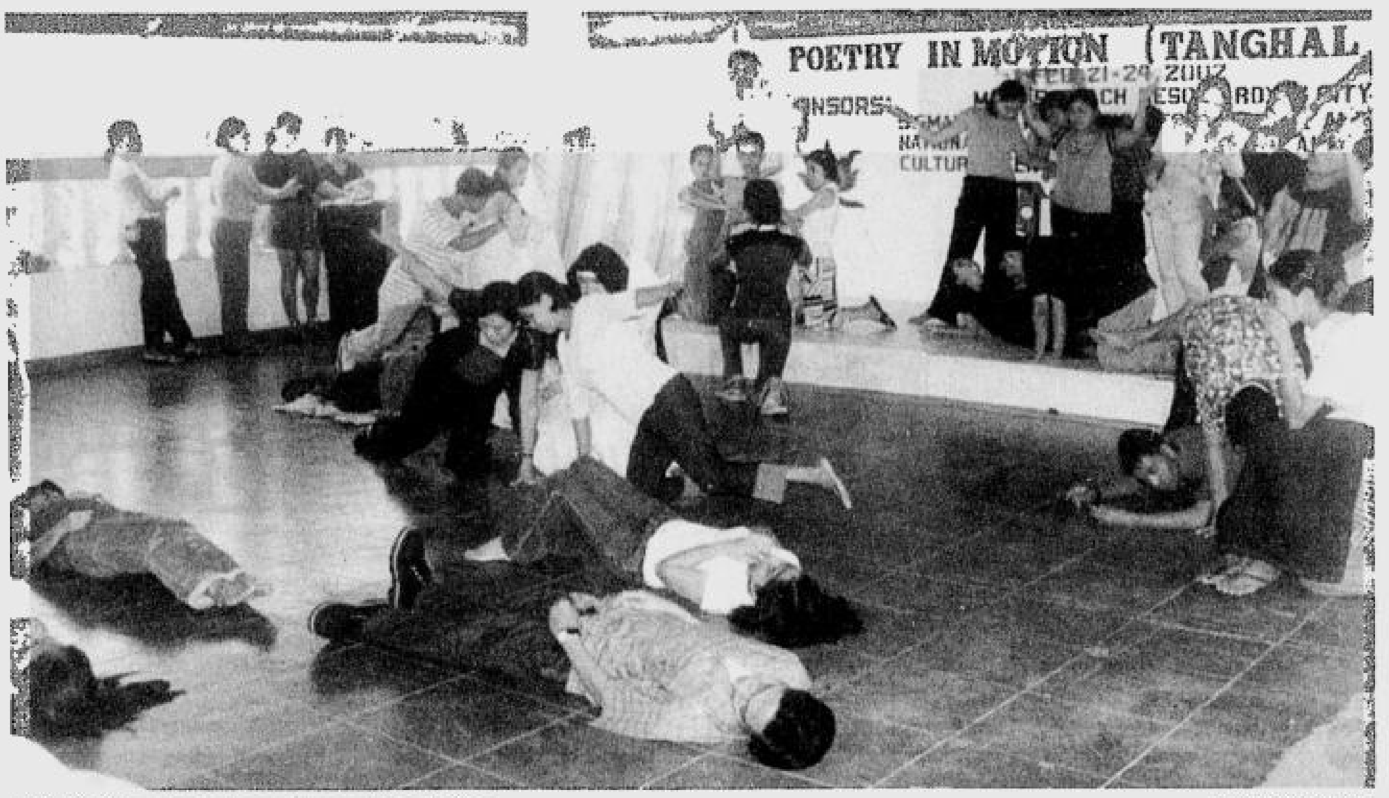
The *luwas* that trace its origins to the pre-Spanish times are full of imagery and are normally humorous and even irreverent, said Teodoro, a 1998 Palanca award winner for the full-length play in Filipino.

Some *luwas* talk of love, courtship, quarrels, and petty things or work in the farm. Generally, the poems give insights into the Panay people's way of life, their environment and day-to-day concerns.

### Poetry in motion

Since the Panay natives did not know how to write, they had to memorize the *luwa* or create new ones if the situation called for it. For more emphasis and recall, they performed their *luwa* (what we now call "poetry in motion").

The *luwa* and *bordon*, almost dying traditions that are now performed only in hinterland barangays in Panay were "resurrected" in a poetry in motion workshop called Tanghal-Tula in Roxas City last February.



WORKSHOP participants perform poetry in motion.

HERMINIO BELTRAN JR.

Sponsored by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) and managed by the Sigmahanon Foundation for Culture and the Arts Inc., the workshop had 21 students and 25 teachers from all over Capiz as participants.

The *luwas* served as jump-off point for lessons on the basic elements of poetry such as imagery, metaphor and the "sound of words" that was managed by Teodoro.

The "motion" part of the workshop was handled by writer and theater teacher Alex de los Santos who writes in Kinaray-a, the vernacular of Antique province.

"We would like to revive performance poetry as it was done before and develop the appreciation of Hiligaynon language and literature through this workshop," said Teodoro who also heads the Creative Writing Desk of the University of San Agustin in Iloilo.

Since the *luwa* is traditional poetry that is performed, De los Santos merged the elements of theater (sounds, visual arts, body movement) with Teodoro's elements of poetry in three days of workshops.

The participants themselves were surprised at their own performance as the culminating activity at the workshop site, a resort facing the beach in Roxas City's popular Baybay area.

Averaging three to five minutes per performance, six groups applied what they learned in the workshop and did poetry in motion exploring the themes of love, abuse of power, strife and even abortion.

"These new Capiz poets have promising potentials. At the start of the workshop, they wrote poetry in English because that was their concept of poetry and now they have discovered that they actually write better in their native language," said Teodoro.

The workshop participants said they have appreciated the *luwas* and have learned to use images in poetry and use them in a theatrical performance.

The sheer number of participants—46 in all—overwhelmed workshop veterans Teodoro and De los Santos, who were expecting about only 15-20 participants.

Such was the excitement created by selected invitees to the workshop that the Sigmahanon Foundation had to accommodate those who registered and kindly rejected others.

### Little known group

The poetry in motion workshop was just the icing on the cake of the little-known Sigmahanon Foundation for Culture and the Arts Inc. (SFCAI). The group has created a stir among Panay's culturati for their determination and unity that has resulted in several notable activities—one of which was a visit to the town of Sigma in Capiz by "Bravo Filipino" musicians such as pianist Mariel Illusorio, flutist Tony Maigue, cellist Willy Pasamba and baritone Jonathan Saenz in 2001.

Prior to that, the SFCAI which has 24 members and a staff of three has brought Manila theater groups like 'Dulaang Talyer' and CCP's 'Hiblang Abo' to perform before crowds from Sigma and other parts of Capiz in 2000.

"We never expected to come up to this level where we would be given the opportunity to develop culture and the arts in Capiz considering that Sigma is such a sleepy town," said Alphonsus Tesoro, chairman of the SFCAI.

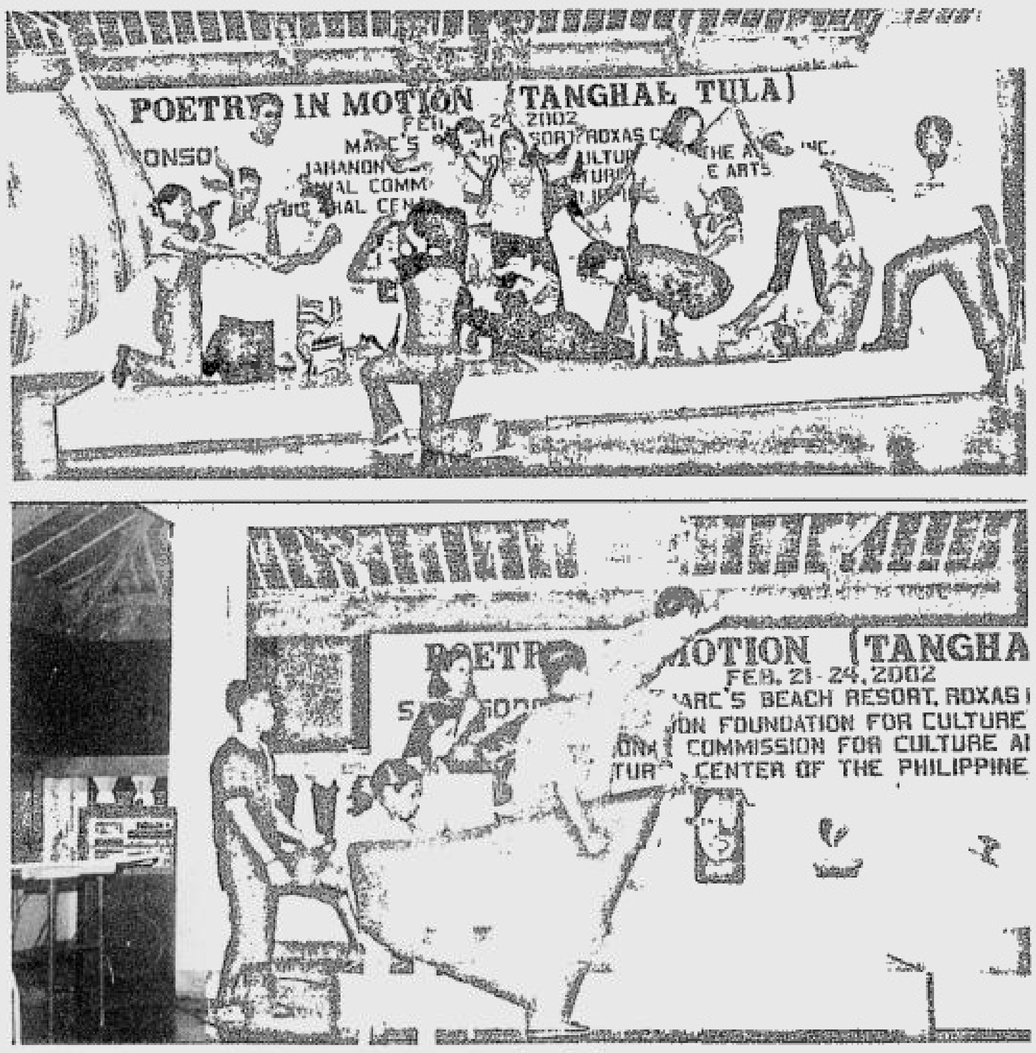
First created as the Sigma Municipal Council for Culture and the Arts through a 1996 resolution of the Sigma Sangguniang Bayan, the SFCAI has become an independent and private body through an Executive Order signed by Sigma Mayor Roberto Sualog. In 2000, SFCAI was registered at the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Tesoro's disbelief at the foundation's achievements comes from the fact that Sigma is a fifth class municipality that suffers yearly from the floods that inundate it since it is surrounded by bigger, more elevated towns.

Some 29 kilometers away from Roxas City with a population of 28,070 spread out in 10,170 hectares, with its residents mostly engaged in agriculture, Sigma seemed to be the last place to cultivate art and culture.

### Renaissance

While Sigma townsfolk are starting to appreciate the kind of art and culture that urbanites are used to, they also enjoy the return of their native traditions and culture through the efforts of SFCAI.



SIGMA rediscovers the "luwa" through a series of workshops.

HERMINIO BELTRAN JR.

It has led to a renaissance of sorts not only in Sigma but also in Capiz.

SFCAI-led activities never fail to create a stir among Sigmahanons, regardless of social status. Barrio folk go to the town proper every December to participate in SFCAI's 'Tukib Abilidad' (Talent Discovery) where they showcase traditional arts and culture.

In summer, young people participate in 'Handumanan,' workshops that hone artistic skills; and every June 24, everyone joins in the Hil-o-hanay Festival, Sigma's version of *bayanihan.*

"The NCCA is really impressed with the work of the Sigmahanon Foundation in preserving and developing the native culture of their people and exposing the Sigmahanons to other arts as well," said Bambi Diaz, officer in charge of NCCA's Public Affairs and Information Division.

As if staging shows, holding workshops and waking sleepy towns were not enough, SFCAI has embarked on an ambitious project of discovering and documenting Sigma's history, almost lost traditions and cultural practices.

Tesoro excitedly recalled their discovery of 16 *daigon* (caroling) songs in 2001 that has been in the possession of three elderly sisters for 50 years.

The sisters, who live in Sitio Hanawa, had told Tesoro that the Hiligaynon songs in their collection have been sung since 1920 and were taught to them by their grandparents.

SFCAI is also in the process of documenting native dances such as the native *Iscutis* that old folks perform during Sigma's cultural affairs. They have also discovered a farm productivity ritual done by farmers in the hinterlands that have *pagan* undertones.

### Rediscovering Sigma

SFCAI's many activities obviously needed direction and planning, said Tesoro. Thus, the foundation made a five-year institutional development plan that was prepared with the help of Jaime Antonio Jr., a local governance specialist of the Development Academy of the Philippines.

SFCAI, in 2001, at the height of a flurry of activities, became a member of the CCP Network of Local Arts Councils, joining 50 other groups all over the Philippines. It also has the regular support of the NCCA, which often gives the SFCAI grants for its many activities.

"We never expected Sigma to be so rich in tradition and culture. I am sure other places in Capiz and Panay also have them. All it takes is to let the people participate in cultural activities and you would be surprised with what you discover," said Tesoro, manager of a rural bank in Sigma.

SFCAI's greatest happiness, said Tesoro, is in knowing that people from Sigma and Capiz are rediscovering and enjoying their own traditions and culture even while they welcome new experiences through other visiting artists and workshops.

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# Business as usual

**BACOLOD EXCHANGE**
*Ninfa R. Leonardia*

THE ALUMNI of the Negros Occidental High School are still basking in the euphoria that followed their very successful centennial celebration--a week-long series of activities that covered practically the whole province.

Thousands of *balikbayan* alumni flew in, some with their entire families, and it was fiesta time for them all with the various classes also holding their own gatherings, aside from the general reunion. Hundreds of alumni worked tirelessly to achieve all this, but most of them concede that much of the credit should go to the Centennial Committee chairman, noted Bacolod lawyer William Mirano.

For a while, reports about the centennial affair hogged the local news and the homecoming alumni went home with clippings and copies of local newspapers featuring their grand affair.

* * *

But no sooner had they left when it was again business as usual in Bacolod City, with the city council and the mayor leaping at each other with accusations and denials of alleged irregularities.

The Vice Mayor, Ramiro Garcia Jr. questioned the recent sortie of the mayor and the barangay captains who went on their Lakbay Aral that cost the city more than half a million pesos. Garcia and the councilors wanted to know where the money came from, and why the city was spending so much on the trip when it had so many unpaid accounts yet.

Mayor Luzviminda Valdez said that the P500,000 came from her discretionary fund and the barangay captains said they added P60,000 from their own funds. That made residents sit up because the city had never spent as much in previous Lakbay Aral sorties. In fact, it did not spend a single centavo on them before, a city hall insider said.

Well, that's all money under the bridge, one might say, and they are now adding up what was actually spent, aside from the freebies they had reportedly accepted from host cities.

While this was brewing, news came out that the Development Academy of the Philippines released the results of studies made on Philippine cities and Marikina came out as one of the top ones, particular as the "most responsive." Bacoleños could only eat their heart out upon hearing about this. Not so long ago, in 1996 or 1997, then Marikina Mayor Bayani Fernando had visited Bacolod and had very nice things to say about the way the city was progressing. A few weeks later, a Bacolod resident who visited Marikina excitedly called home to relay the news that billboards had sprouted all over the city and the gist of what they were saying was: "Bacolod City is clean, green, peaceful and orderly. Why can't we be like that?" The words were in Pilipino and much more expressive. Anyway, then City Administrator Tony Kho made it a point to go to Marikina and take pictures of the billboards and they were published in the local papers.

And now Marikina has not only gotten there, it has overtaken Bacolod, and left it far behind, too.

* * *

But it's not only at the Bacolod City Hall where officials seem to be watching their backs all the time.

In Negros Occidental province, at the capitol, what now appears to be a sex scam as interesting as the pedophile cases bugging the Church in the US is cropping up. It all came out when the president of the Negros Occidental Sangguniang Kabataan Federation, Dino Acuña, 26, filed a complaint against the SK chairman of Victorias City, Mark Dominique Aboyo, 25, for assault against a person in authority and for less serious physical injuries.

Aboyo countered by also filing charges of physical injuries against Acuña and claiming that the SK federation head had threatened to kill him. This, he added, was because he wanted to end the "relationship" between them. Acuña quickly readied libel raps against Aboyo.

In the meantime, their elders in the Sangguniang Panlalawigan are apparently eyeing the case with amusement, noting the entertainment value of the exchanges between the two honorable representatives of the youth in the so-called august body. So much for participation of the youth in law-making and nation-building through the SK. How many thousands of pesos go to their salaries and allowances, by the way?

* * *

The officials of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas who proposed the use of the picture of President Macapagal-Arroyo in the new P200 bills that are to be released soon must have taken a cue from one of those slogans presented by her PR consultants. Now they can tell the Filipino "May Gloria ang pera mo."

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

# Bethlehem church standoff is over

From page A1

start rebuilding this lovely city."

### Sunrise in Bethlehem

As the sun rose over Bethlehem, the militants—some looking worn and haggard—began filing out of the church's main door and passing through metal detectors under the guns of Israeli soldiers before boarding waiting buses.

Some strode defiantly past the troops. One was carried out on a stretcher. Another knelt down and kissed the ancient stones outside the church, built on the spot revered by Christians as the birthplace of Jesus.

"All these 13 had blood on their hands," Israeli government spokesperson Raanan Gissin told CNN. "I think it is only a just solution to a very complicated situation."

Palestinian women relatives of the militants stood on nearby rooftops calling out the men's names. Some were wailing and others shouted abuse at Israeli troops. "Goodbye, our beloved ones!" yelled a middle-aged woman in an Islamic head-dress.

The people inside the church had endured weeks of hardship, with food supplies and water in short supply and gun battles between Palestinian fighters and Israeli soldiers erupting frequently around the compound.

Israel had said some of those inside were hostages. The Palestinians said all were there of their own accord.

The army said foreign activists who slipped into the church last week were to be deported after questioning at a military base. Other civilians and Palestinian policemen who had been inside were also to face questioning before they could go home.

### First stop: Cyprus

Diplomats said the Palestinians would be put up under guard at a Cyprus hotel, possibly in the coastal resort of Larnaca.

European diplomatic sources said Italy, Spain and other countries were willing to take some of the militants, wanted by Israel for alleged complicity in attacks that have killed scores of Israelis during a 19-month-old Palestinian uprising.

European Union diplomats said the final destinations of the 13 men, who sought refuge in the church when Israeli forces swept into Bethlehem on April 2, may be finalized only when EU foreign ministers hold a regular meeting in Brussels on Monday.

US officials played a role in forging the deal to end the siege, and armed US agents took part in escorting the buses carrying the militants away from the church.

Israel had originally wanted all the militants, including members of the Islamic Hamas movement and Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction, to surrender or be deported. Palestinian officials at first refused to consider sending any of the men into exile.

But as the siege dragged on and the Christian world became increasingly alarmed, both sides gave ground.

### New threat

Even as the Bethlehem standoff moved toward a conclusion, there was new violence. Tensions remained high. Three people were slightly hurt in an apparent grenade attack in the southern Israeli city of Beersheba and Palestinians feared a military onslaught in the Gaza Strip after a suicide attack south of Tel Aviv on Tuesday.

The cause of the explosion in Beersheba was not immediately known but Israel radio cited witnesses as saying it was probably caused by a hand grenade.

Israel has called up reservists and Palestinians in the Gaza Strip steeled themselves for possible attack after the Israeli government gave the army the go-ahead to hit back for the suicide bombing that killed 15 people on Tuesday.

The bombing undermined renewed political and diplomatic moves to ease the Israeli-Palestinian violence raging since September 2000 and to put peace talks back on track.

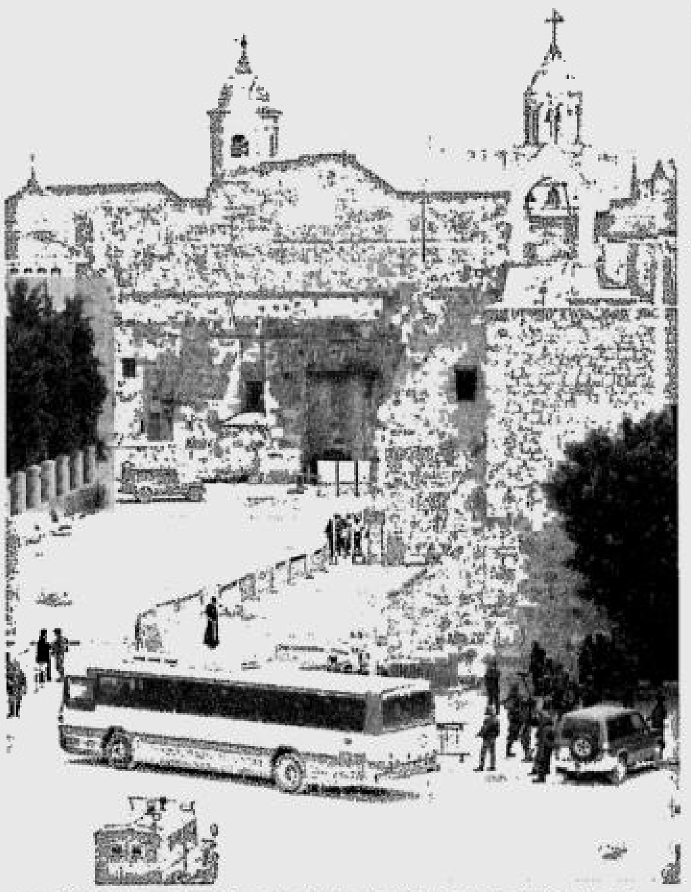
The Gaza-based Islamic militant group Hamas took responsibility for the bombing, though the attacker was not identified. Israel's largest military operation against the Palestinians in two decades was concentrated on the West Bank but Gaza's turn appeared to be coming.

### Tanks, troops move in

Israeli tanks and troops massed at the edges of the Gaza Strip, and the Israeli military called up reserves, indicating that a retaliatory strike against Gaza was imminent.

However, Israeli officials said it would not be on the scale of "Defensive Shield," the thrust into the West Bank in which Israeli forces took control of main Palestinian towns and refugee camps.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said the targets would be "centers from which the suicide attackers come, or the houses from which they come or the nests from which the organization of suicide bombers comes." *Reuters, AP*



**AFTER 38 days, the Church of the Nativity in the West Bank town of Bethlehem is free of its unwanted occupants. A bus is ready to transport Palestinian militants and civilians out of the once closed-off military zone of Manger Square.** AFP

**THE LAST of 123 Palestinians who had been hiding inside the Church of the Nativity file out into Manger Square.** REUTERS

# Arabs offer total ceasefire for Israeli withdrawal

CAIRO—Arab League Secretary General Amr Mussa said early Friday that Arab countries were prepared to offer Israel a "total ceasefire" in exchange for its withdrawal from Palestinian self-rule territories.

Speaking after a meeting of Arab foreign ministers and representatives to follow up a Saudi peace initiative, and as Israel appeared poised to launch a large-scale invasion of the Gaza Strip, Mussa said both the US and Arab positions were "clear."

The United States has "promised to work for an Israeli withdrawal from autonomous Palestinian zones in exchange for a total ceasefire on the Arab side and a return to the negotiating table," he said.

Mussa specifically addressed the suicide operations launched by Palestinian militants which Israel says leave it no choice but to invade the Palestinian territories to root out "terrorist" infrastructures.

"The American position is known and the Arab position is clear, these (suicide) operations will stop when the (Israeli) retreat starts," he said.

The Saudi, Jordanian, Bahraini, Yemeni and Palestinian foreign ministers attended the first meeting of the committee to follow up on the Saudi initiative endorsed in March at the Beirut-hosted Arab summit.

Representatives from Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and Morocco also attended.

The Saudi initiative offers a comprehensive peace with Israel in exchange for the Jewish state's withdrawal from all Arab territories seized in the 1967 Middle East war and a "just solution" for Palestinian refugees.

Before the meeting, which lasted four hours, the Saudi foreign minister, Saud al-Faisal, also briefed the members of the committee on the results of Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdel Aziz's recent visit to the United States.

"While the Americans have the responsibility of checking the Israeli actions (against the Palestinians), the Arabs on their side have to assume a responsibility: to follow the road they chose at the Beirut summit," he said.

The committee also discussed the idea of a new Middle East peace conference, although Mussa said that an Israeli withdrawal from the self-rule Palestinian areas was "a precondition" to any such talks.

The meeting came as Israel appeared to be winding down its large-scale offensive in the West Bank, but also as Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon had received a green light from his Cabinet for a similar operation in the Gaza Strip after a suicide bombing near Tel Aviv this week which killed 16 civilians. *AFP*

# 115 solons seek probe of repression of leftists

From page A1

the newly appointed chief of the Philippine Army.

Last month Ocampo delivered a privileged speech denouncing the killings and the human rights violations committed against Bayan Muna members and supporters. The group also held protest rallies outside Camp Aguinaldo and Camp Crame, both in Quezon City.

### Spouses

The latest of the killings documented by the EMJP involved the spouses Expedito and Manuela Albarillo of Mindoro Oriental. The crime occurred on April 8 and was perpetrated by suspected members of the Army's 16th Infantry Battalion.

According to the House resolution, Expedito, a Bayan Muna coordinator and a barangay councilor, suffered eight gunshot wounds in the body. His wife Manuela was shot under the right eye, shattering her neck.

The resolution also said that in the first four months of the year, five Bayan Muna coordinators and members in Central Luzon became victims of "enforced disappearance" and were still missing.

It quoted a newspaper report as saying that Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, Central Luzon police director, had ordered intensified surveillance on Bayan Muna leaders and members in the region.

It said a similar surveillance order was issued to cover other Bayan Muna chapters in Dumaguete, Bohol, Albay and Laguna, as well as the group's headquarters in Quezon City.

"(T)he increasing number of human rights violations reveals a disturbing pattern that indicates they are not simply isolated incidents or aberrant phenomena but reminiscent of the systematic trend of political repression during the martial law years," the resolution noted.

It said the proposed House inquiry should determine "whether there is an official policy of political repression by the government and/or the military against Bayan Muna members and supporters."

Among the lawmakers who filed the resolution were Deputy Speakers Gerry Salapuddin and Emilio Espinosa Jr., and Representatives Ace Barbers, Rolando Andaya Jr., Antonio Nachura, Carlos Padilla, Oscar Moreno, Raul del Mar, Didagen Dilangalen, Gilbert Remulla, Florencio Abad, Cynthia Villar and Agapito Aquino.

### Training camp

The military said a communist training camp fell into government hands yesterday when soldiers in pursuit of armed men stumbled into the area in Magsaysay, Davao del Sur.

According to a report sent to Camp Aguinaldo, three firearms, a hand grenade, subversive documents, propaganda materials, training equipment, signal documents, maps, and communication and medical equipment were recovered from the camp.

The military said a certain Ka Bonbon, supposedly the leader of a committee that headed the New People's Army guerrilla front No. 74, was maintaining the camp.

It was this NPA unit that supposedly mounted the raid on the 16th Infantry Battalion post, also in Magsaysay, on March 18, 2001.

The military also said the same unit destroyed the equipment of a telecommunications firm in Koronadal City last April 10.

***With a report from Martin P. Marfil***

# Priest sex offenders are few, says bishop

From page A1

percent are struggling to be good and are quietly serving the people.

The Catholic Church has been looking closely at the problem of sexually active priests after sex scandals involving priests have rocked the Catholic Church in the United States in the past months.

Malacañang fully supports the Church efforts to seek the truth and is offering the services of the Department of Justice, the courts and the entire criminal justice system to help right the wrongs committed by sex offenders among the clergy.

"Priests are also citizens of the republic and are covered by the same laws that apply to you and me and to everyone," said Conrado "Dodie" Limcaoco, presidential adviser on media and ecclesiastical affairs.

Limcaoco said in an interview over dzMM that "aggrieved parties can go to the courts" if they want to go after errant priests who have abused them.

"As far as Malacañang is concerned, we are supportive of efforts to let the truth come out," Limcaoco said.

Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable urged victims to come forward and that they can count on the protection of the government.

But he qualified that the investigation of the sexual abuse should be done "quietly first" as it is a "sensitive" issue.

"Malacañang will go against anybody who violates the law," Afable said yesterday.

### CBCP apology

This week, the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines apologized for the sins committed by priests who have violated their vows of chastity.

The CBCP said it is aghast over the criminal and serial dimensions of sexual misconduct among the clergy and expressed apology to the victims.

"We hope this will not happen again," said CBCP secretary general Msgr. Hernando Coronel.

Limcaoco noted that the CBCP had announced that it was determined to ferret out the truth and investigate priests accused of sex offenses.

"They (CBCP) also said that offenders comprise a minority in the Catholic Church and if needed, these (offenders) will brought to justice," Limcaoco said.

Limcaoco, however, stressed that the government is not interfering in the Church's ongoing investigation because of the constitutional principle involving the separation of the Church and state.

Likewise, Afable said that the Palace did not want to be involved in what he described as media hype over the behavior of certain members of the clergy and is leaving it up to the Church to deal with the problem.

# Gloria's 'tampo': Can't seem to do anything right

From page A1

Macapagal-Arroyo is always suspected of putting her election bid in 2004 as end-all and be-all of everything she does.

Take her recent order to reduce the unpopular purchased power adjustment (PPA).

Limcaoco, who advises the President on media and ecclesiastical affairs, said that Ms Macapagal's order was meant to lighten the burden of the consumers when she directed the National Power Corp. to reduce PPA collections by 85 centavos per kilowatt hour.

The Palace earlier said this translates to savings of P170 per month for electricity users consuming 200 kilowatt hours.

"Her *tampo* really is that if she does something good for the nation, it should be appreciated instead of being given a negative spin like it's being done by our political opponents," Limcaoco said.

Limcaoco said there are times that President Macapagal has to make "difficult decisions for the good of the majority" and these are automatically suspected to having a political agenda.

Two presidential advisers have earlier confirmed Ms Macapagal's reelection run but the President has remained coy about her political plans.

Administration critics have accused President Macapagal of putting her reelection over and above her duties as a mother to all Filipinos.

### Ina ng Bayan out

But then "Ina ng Bayan" is out. Limcaoco made sure.

Even the President herself admitted she is not credible as "Ina ng Bayan."

So, a new Malacañang infomercial directed by the multi-awarded Marilou Diaz-Abaya has been on air for the past two weeks.

The new TV ad, titled "Bigas (Rice)," does away with an overly dramatic President Macapagal as she was portrayed in the "Ina ng Bayan" series.

The father comes home bragging that he is able to buy more rice from the National Food Authority because it is cheap.

Delighted, his wife and children tease him as he's now able to save money.

A smiling Ms Macapagal comes only at the end of the ad to say that the government has made rice available.

### Like a movie

"It was like a movie," said a reporter who saw it.

Limcaoco admits that the concept came from him.

"I thought about it, yes," he told the INQUIRER.

He said he patterned it after other successful commercials like PLDT's "Grasya" and McDonald's "Karen at Gina" that ran on a series based on everyday, familiar scenes rather than contrived ones.

He proudly added that it was a breakthrough of sorts for government ads.

"It's professionally done. It's a new model for government ads," Limcaoco said.

He said he was able to tap Diaz-Abaya and her same award-winning team behind the movies "Rizal" and "Bagong Buwan" because she is a supporter of the President.

Besides, they are related by marriage.

"She deserves no less than the best (creative team)," Limcaoco said, adding that Diaz-Abaya only charged a "minimal fee."

He refused to give the production cost, only claiming it was "way below" P3 million to P5 million that is the usual cost for such ad.

### No Ang-Limcaoco rivalry

The Ina ng Bayan ad was a brainchild of Dante Ang, the President's longtime publicist whom she recently named senior media adviser.

Ang was also proud of his "Ina ng Bayan," saying it helped some people realize they needed to help the President.

Limcaoco quickly resisted any comparison with Ang's Ina ng Bayan ad.

"Let's just say it's a different approach. It's been airing for two weeks now and so far there's been no negative criticisms," he said.

"Please don't pit me against Dante Ang. We are good friends," he added.

# Big NPA camp captured

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Government soldiers captured a communist rebel camp used to train guerrillas and repair weapons in southern Mindanao, an Army spokesperson said yesterday.

Guerrillas from the New People's Army, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, abandoned the camp early Thursday in the remote village of Datal-Leing in Magsaysay, Davao del Sur province, said Maj. Julieto Ando, spokesperson for the 6th Infantry Division.

Ando said the camp, which included about 15 huts, a network of trenches, bunkers and a classroom with a blackboard, could house more than 100 guerrillas.

The rebels left behind several weapons, gun repair tools, ammunition, communications equipment, medicine and documents when they left the camp, Ando said.

"There was no fire fight because they fled. They must have seen we had a larger force," Ando said, adding that local villagers had informed soldiers about the presence of the camp.

Rebels based in the area recently burned a cellular telephone company's transmission station, he added.

The government and the rebels had opened talks to end more than three decades of communist insurgency, but President Macapagal-Arroyo suspended official negotiations last year after the rebels assassinated a former congressman.

Informal talks continue, with exiled rebel negotiators based in the Dutch city of Utrecht. ***AP***

# Jordanian terror suspect arrested at Naia

**By TJ Burgonio**

A JORDANIAN national was arrested early yesterday at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on suspicion of engaging in terrorist activities.

Nedhal Falah Awwad al-Dhalam, of Joza, Jordan, was arrested by immigration and police authorities while he was about to board a flight for Cebu at the Naia Terminal 2, also known as the Centennial Terminal.

Al-Dhalam, 31, alias Sheikh Nedhal, is the director of the Darul Hijra Foundation Inc. and Islamic Information Center with offices at the Anza II Bldg. at 1078 Pasong Tamo St., Makati, intelligence sources said.

The sources said he was closely associated with the OBL Khalifa terror support network "clandestinely controlled" by three arrested Palestinian nationals who were operating from San Andres Bukid in Manila.

The sources said Al-Dhalam had also helped Sheikh Hamoud Al-Lahem of the Islamic Studies Call Guidance (Iscag) to provide funds for the base camps of the Rajah Solaiman Movement in Anda, Pangasinan, and San Clemente, Tarlac.

They said Al-Dhalam had also provided funds for the Moro Islamic Liberation Front with the help of Iscag, using construction companies as conduits.

Authorities had earlier tagged Al-Lahem as the founder of the Islamic Educational Center (Mardrasah) in Anda, Pangasinan.

The Islamic school was raided by police on May 2 on suspicion that it was being used as a front for a terrorist group, and arrested six people. Three more people were arrested during a later raid on the school's training camp in San Clemente, Tarlac.

A cache of firearms was seized during the two operations.

"We have strong reason to believe that they are members of a terrorist group," said Senior Supt. Leonardo Espina, spokesperson of the Philippine National Police.

## Rights group slams PCGG for losing another Marcos case

**By Volt Contreras**

THE HUMAN rights advocacy group Karapatan yesterday castigated the Presidential Commission on Good Government and the Sandiganbayan over the dismissal of yet another ill-gotten wealth case against the family of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos and his cronies, calling the decision a "travesty of justice."

The group said it "cannot accept that government prosecutors are simply ignorant of the rules of evidence" when they lost the suit for the recovery of the alleged Marcos shares in the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. which has been in litigation for the past 15 years.

"The Sandiganbayan's explanation of its decision tends to convince us that the 'Republic' pursuing the cases against the Marcos family is stupid, and it took 15 years for the court to probe such stupidity," Karapatan said in a statement.

In its May 6 decision, the Sandiganbayan's 4th Division said the PCGG had presented mere photocopies of documents to support its claim that the late dictator controlled PLDT through the Philippine Telecommunications Investment Co., with spouses Ramon and Imelda Conjuangco as his dummies.

The court thus upheld the Cojuangcos' claim as lawful stockholders in the PTIC which held the controlling stake in the telecoms giant when the case was filed in July 1987.

"We cannot help but suspect that something fishy is going on, and it definitely leaves a bad taste in the mouth," said Karapatan deputy secretary general Dani Beltran.

Turning on the Sandiganbayan, the group asked: "Why decide against the people's case based on merely flimsy grounds? Can they not think of any more sound grounds to base their obviously unjust decisions to throw out the Marcos cases over the years?"

"Are the people finally seeing the true colors of the Sandiganbayan?" it asked.

Karapatan noted that more than 90 cases against the Marcoses have already been dismissed "mostly because of this Republic's supposed ignorance of the rules of evidence."

**WATER PUMPS FOR SAMAR**

**President Macapagal-Arroyo inspects the water pumps given by the national government through the Department of Agriculture to the municipality of Matuguinao in Samar during her visit to the province Friday. The pumps will help small farmers combat the effect of the El Niño phenomenon which is expected to hit the country this year. Matuguinao mayor Josie Dy (behind the President) received the pumps in behalf of her municipality. Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor also witnessed the turn-over.** MALACAÑANG PHOTO

## Lorna Montilla—writer, anthropologist, painter, art patron—dies at 72

**MONTILLA**

LORNA Revilla Montilla, writer, painter, anthropologist and art patron, died last Thursday, May 9 from complications due to asthma. She was 72.

The Cultural Center of the Philippines recognized her achievements and named her one of the country's Centennial Artists.

She is survived by her sons Jose Montilla Jr. and Nicki Montilla, both based in the United States.

Born in San Remigio, Antique, Montilla was well known for her articles on history, tribal culture and her rollicking good humor.

Her body lies at the Loyola Memorial Chapels in Guadalupe, Makati City, and will be cremated at noon today, Saturday, May 11.

Her ashes will be flown to Antique and brought to Madrangca beach in San Jose de Buenavista where Lorna had a rest house.

At the time of her death, she had been appointed by Antique Gov. Sally Zaldivar-Perez as cultural adviser.

### SUPREME COURT GUIDELINES

CRIMINAL LAW (AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Evident premeditation—The elements of evident premeditation must be established with equal certainty as the criminal act itself can be appreciated as a qualifying circumstance. These elements are: (1) the time when the accused determined to commit the crime; (2) an over act manifestly indicating that they clung to their determination to commit the crime; and (3) the sufficient lapse of time between the decision to commit the crime and the execution thereof to allow the accused to reflect upon the consequences of their act. The essence of evident premeditation is that the execution of the criminal act is preceded by cool thought and reflection upon the resolution to carry out the criminal intent within a space of time sufficient to arrive at a calm judgment. In the case at bar, there is no showing that the killing was the product of cool thought and reflection. There is absolutely no showing how and when the plan was hatched or how much time elapsed before the crime was carried out. Suffice it to state that without such evidence, mere presumptions and inferences, no matter how logical and probable, will not suffice. In other words, the evidence falls short of proving evident premeditation. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Ynares-Santiago, First Division, People v. Nicholas, G. R. No. 142044, November 23, 2001] **DIGEST BY R. B. VERA**

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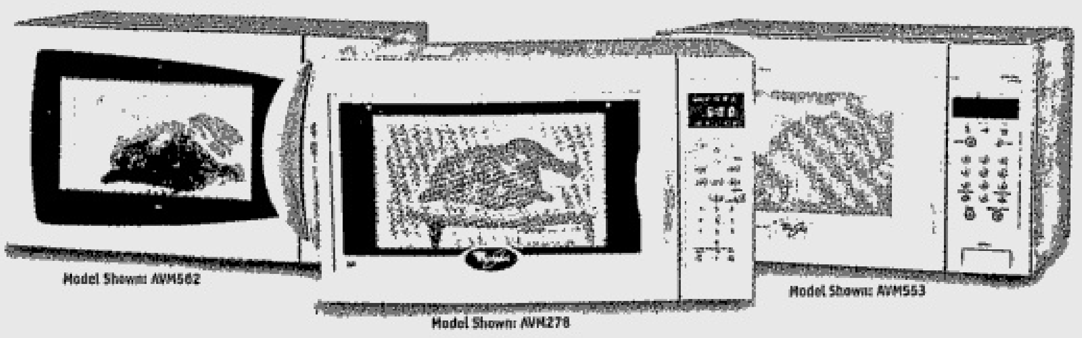

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# SPORTS

*Editor* **Al S. Mendoza** ◉ *Assistant Editor* **Edwin M. Villanueva**

## Garcia rules Seniors Open

FORMER sports commissioner Richie Garcia celebrated his return to competitive action by winning the Philippine Amateur Seniors Open championship yesterday in runaway fashion. Garcia, whose playing days were severely cut due to his work at the Philippine Sports Commissioner, completed a 14-stroke victory with a closing two-over-par 74 at the Couples course of the Riviera Golf and Country Club in Silang, Cavite.

### PALARO IN PERIL

# Roco snubs Palace meeting

By Marc Anthony Reyes

**EDUCATION Secretary Raul Roco yesterday snubbed the planned meeting in Malacañang where he and other sports leaders, including Rep. Monico Puentevella and Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain, were set to talk about the fate of the 2002 Palarong Pambansa.**

The move further jeopardized the sportsfest—which was supposed to be held June 2-9 in Naga City—since Roco is reportedly abroad and won't return until next week.

Roco himself lamented that the Palaro date is too close to the opening of classes and runs smack to the enrollment period.

Puentevella, Buhain and Naga City Mayor Jessie Robredo instead just talked to Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo and presented their position paper which contained proofs that the DepEd regional directors are ready to take part in the Palaro since 15 of them have already submitted their entries.

The Bacolod congressman added Romulo agreed to brief President Arroyo, who is set to talk to Roco once the DepEd secretary arrives.

But sources said Roco is just trying to save his face because he is running out of reasons to scrap the Palaro, which has already been cancelled during the past two years.

The cancellation, according to the position paper, will do more harm than good because it will put to waste not only the preparation of both the organizers and the participants but also the P41 million which the PSC already spent.

Buhain said the P36 million released by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. is ready for disbursement and is just waiting for Roco's go signal.

"It's very plain to see that there are too many reasons why we should push through with the Games and practically no reason why we should cancel it," said Puentevella.

Lanao del Norte Rep. Bobby Dimaporo also promised to convince Roco to reconsider, especially because his province's Palaro hosting will be affected if the Games are cancelled this year.

# Kings down Mavericks, move up; Hornets win

DALLAS—Mike Bibby scored 29 points and Doug Christie returned from a sprained ankle to score 14 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter as Sacramento beat Dallas, 125-119, on Thursday night.

The Kings, who lost their second-leading scorer Peja Stojakovic of Yugoslavia to a sprained ankle in the third quarter, took a 2-1 lead in the best-of-seven Western Conference semifinals. Game 4 is Saturday (Sunday in Manila) in Dallas.

Chris Webber had 31 points and 15 rebounds and Vlade Divac added 19 points and 13 rebounds for the Kings.

Michael Finley had 35 points for Dallas, while Raef LaFrentz added 24 points and 13 rebounds.

Bibby's hot-shooting hand gave the Kings a 15-point lead in the first quarter, before Christie provided several key baskets and solid defense during a 14-4 run midway through the fourth quarter that gave Sacramento a 105-97 lead.

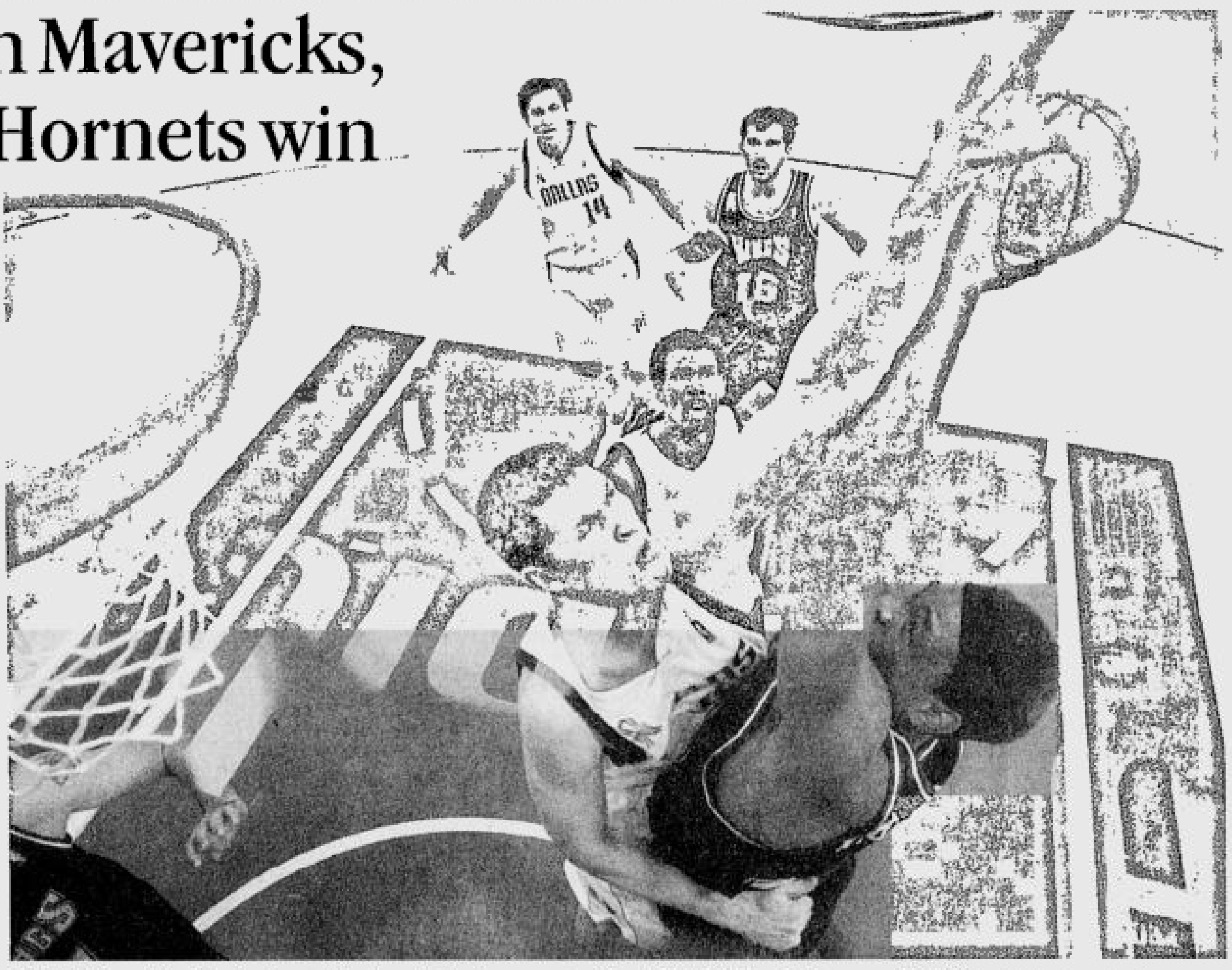
**Hornets 115, Nets 97**

Charlotte's David Wesley shook off a head-to-head collision with New Jersey's Jason Kidd to score 22 points and give the Hornets an emotional spark in a 115-97 victory over the Nets.

Baron Davis scored 26 points, Jamaal Magloire added 16 points and six blocked shots, and George Lynch had 12 points and 12 rebounds for the Hornets, who trail the Nets 2-1 in the best-of-seven Eastern Conference semifinals. Game 4 is Sunday in Charlotte.

Kidd, who needed stitches to close a gash over his left eye following the collision late in the first half, scored 13 points. He played just five minutes and scored just four points after smacking his head. Wesley remained on the court for several minutes after they hit then had to be helped to the locker room.

Richard Jefferson led the Nets with 16 points. *AP*



**DALLAS Mavericks' Raef LaFrentz blocks a shot by Sacramento Kings' Chris Webber in the second half of their Western Conference semifinal Gem 3 in Dallas, Thursday, May 9, 2002. In the background is Mavericks Eduardo Najera (14) and Kings Peja Stojakovic (16). Sacramento won, 125-119, to take a 2-1 lead.** AP

# It's Duncan

NEW YORK— San Antonio Spurs star Tim Duncan, a first-team all-star the last five consecutive seasons, was named the NBA's Most Valuable Player, the league announced on Thursday.

"There's so many guys this season that had such great seasons, Jason (Kidd) being one of them," Duncan said. "But I'm not going to give it back."

Duncan registered career highs in scoring (25.5 points) and rebounds (12.7) over the 82-game 2001-2002 regular season.

He ranked fifth in the league for points and second for rebounds. *AFP*

## SPORTS ON TV

**Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat**

**BASKETBALL**: NBA Playoffs Conference Semifinals—Detroit vs Boston, Game 3 at 7 a.m. (r – 2 p.m.), LA Lakers vs San Antonio, Game 3 at 9:30 a.m. (r – 4:30 p.m.) on Starsports, Sacramento vs Dallas, Game 4 tomorrow at 3:30 a.m. on ESPN

NBA Action at 10:30 a.m. (r) on ESPN

The Basketball Show at 12 noon on RPN 9

**MOTOR SPORTS**: 2002 F1 Qualifying - Austrian Grand Prix at 7 p.m. on Star Sports

**TENNIS**: Masters Series (Rome) - Men's Quarterfinal Match at 12 noon and 2 p.m. on Star Sports

**GOLF**: PGA Verizon Byron Nelson Classic, Second Round at 8 p.m. on Star Sports

**BASEBALL**: Major League Baseball at 5:30 p.m. (r – 11:30 p.m.) on ESPN

# RCPI Negros gains semis

**GAMES TODAY** (St. La Salle Coliseum)
3 p.m.—Pangasinan vs Davao
6 p.m.—Cebu vs Negros

BACOLOD CITY—RCPI Negros took a long time warming up, but when it did Osaka Pangasinan melted under the heat.

The Slashers struggled in the first three quarters before exploding with a season-high 48 points in the fourth quarter to salvage a 101-99 victory over the Waves Thursday night and claim a semifinal berth in the MBA First Conference at the St. La Salle Coliseum here.

Struggling in the first three quarters, the Slashers exploded with a season-high 48 points in the fourth quarter to overhaul a 29-point deficit and tally their seventh win in nine starts in the Southern Conference.

Now, the Slashers can afford to yield their remaining game against the Cebuana Lhuillier Gems at 6 tonight and still figure in the knockout semifinal against either the Professional Davao Eagles (6-3) or the Gems (5-4).

The Waves, who zoomed to an 83-54 spread early in the fourth quarter, dropped to 4-5 and bowed out of the running in the Northern Conference.

Dino Aldeguer and Reynel Hugnatan presided over the Slashers' big comeback as they wound up with 19 points each. Aldeguer, however, earned best player honors for superbly orchestrating the plays.

Casino Cagayan de Oro closed its campaign with a 94-93 stunner over pacesetter Olongapo yesterday at the Lipa Youth and Cultural Center.

The Amigos pulled away, 82-71, at the end of the third quarter and then repulsed the Volunteers' final comeback attempt to finish the eliminations at 2-8. The Volunteers fell to 6-3, but are assured of a semifinals berth in the North Conference.

Defending national champion LBC Batangas (5-3) is playing also-ran Pampanga (1-8) at presstime also at the Lipa Youth and Cultural Center. *Roy Luarca*

# Cebu 10K series blasts off June 9

COMING from the heels of a successful first leg in Baguio City, the Adidas Pharmaton 10K run shifts to Cebu City when the second leg of the series blasts off June 9 at the City Sports Club Cebu inside the Cebu Ayala Business Park.

Race director Raffy Uytiepo said another banner field coming from all over the region is expected to participate in the premier 10K running circuit in the country including the Iloilo Oval Runners and Runnex of Quezon City.

Adidas running shoes, Rudy Project eyewears, Timex, watches, Italian trophies, medals, cash prizes and Pharmaton gift packs await the winners in the race also co-sponsored by Rudy Project, Timex, Natures Spring, Osaka Iridology, Y101, Charlie@Rhythms, Garwood Park Hotel and City Sports Club Cebu.

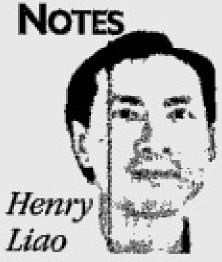
The race is also being backed by the Emergency Rescue Unit Foundation, Comm 15, Cebu Executive Runners Club, Cebu City Sports Commission, Philippine Sports Commission Region VII and the City of Cebu.

The top male and female finishers will also earn a trip to the Adidas Pharmaton King of the Road 10K run slated November in Manila.

Registration starts next week at the Adidas Shop, SM City Cebu and at the PSC Office Region VII at the Cebu City Sports Center.

# Interesting playoffs

**NBA NOTES**



*Henry Liao*

SUDDENLY, the NBA championship is no longer a lock by one team and the ongoing playoffs have become very interesting.

That's after the two-time defending NBA champion LA Lakers, whom many favored to become the sixth team in NBA history to score a title "three-peat", finally fell out of the unbeaten ranks (after four straight victories) last Wednesday (Manila time) in dropping an 88-85 decision to San Antonio Spurs in Game 2 of their Western semifinal series and leveling the count at 1-1. It was the Lakers' first loss in their last 19 games (including the final 15 at regular season's end) at the Staples Center this season and only their second setback in 22 playoff assignments dating back to 2000.

It may come back to haunt them, especially if the Lakers are unable to gain a split in the series' next two games at the Spurs' Alamadome.

As things now stand, San Antonio has stolen the homecourt advantage from the Lakers, who seek to regain it, however, in the third game today (Manila time) or Game 4 on Monday.

The Lakers could have gone up 2-0 if Kobe Bryant's pass had culminated in a potential game-winning three-pointer by Derek Fisher or Robert Horry in the final seconds of Game 2 instead of being whistled for a traveling error. A victory would have completed a huge comeback from a late second-quarter 21-point deficit in a game that Lakers played listlessly nearly throughout as Shaquille O'Neal struggled with his shooting for the second consecutive time in the series and lost much of his aggressiveness after committing four fouls after two quarters, including a silly charge just before halftime, and Bryant was slowed down by a bruised right knee he suffered in the series opener and also was in foul trouble with three personals after the first half.

Then again, the Lakers are lucky to be at 1-1, having played badly in the opening three periods of an 86-80 Game 1 win at the Staples Center and having to battle the Spurs without O'Neal (a cut on his right index finger that needed three stitches) for most of the third quarter and Bryant for six minutes of the payoff period due to injuries. The thing is the Spurs crumbled under pressure at crunchtime while the Lakers hung tough.

# Ana prevails; La Salle falls

**GAMES MONDAY** (Makati Sports Center)
4 p.m.—Montaña vs Ateneo-Hapee
6 p.m.—Kutitap vs Shark Energy

ANA Freezers relied on its big men in the stretch to beat John O Juzz, 73-71, in the PBL Chairman's Cup yesterday at the Makati Coliseum.

Roland Pascual, Jojo "Nyok" De Guzman, and Robert Giron joined forces in the last quarter to power the Freezer Kings to their sixth win in 10 outings.

Arnold Calo scored a heart-stopping lay-up with a half a second left to lift Blu Detergent past ICTSI-La Salle in the last game.

The stunning win lifted Blu to a fourth-best 4-5 card, tying Shark and Kutitap. Despite the loss, ICTSI-La Salle still remained on top at 7-3.

Earlier, Ateneo-Hapee-Negros Navigation blasted RP-Youth-Burlington Socks, 99-71, to keep hold of its solo second spot. *Emil Cabrera*

**Scores:**

**ANA FREEZERS 73**—Pascual 26, Tubid 14, De Guzman 11, Giron 5, R. Mendoza 4, Gumatay 4, Oreta 3, Vilar 2, Laygo 2, Chaneco 2, Mamaclay 0, Artadi 0.

**JOHN O 71**—Ferrer 17, Barbosa 12, Baguion 9, Olaguer 7, Santos 7, Napa 7, De Ocampo 5, Booker 5, Salvador 1, Grijaldo 1, Cayabyab 0, Tolentino 0, Neo 0, Manabat 0, Kiram 0.

Quarters: 13-13, 35-30, 50-52, 73-71.

San Miguel LIGHT
HANG LOOSE!
WALL CLIMBING COMPETITION
MAY 10-

**BORACAY TILT**

**The second leg of the national sport climbing circuit dubbed San Mig Light "Hang Loose" will be staged at Pink Patio Resorts, Boracay on May 10-12, attracting over 100 enthusiasts and island visitors who will vie for top prizes and trophies. Shown during the contract signing of San Mig Light as major sponsor are (from left) Abe Cipriano, assistant brand manager, Geran Guerrero, brand manager of San Mig Light, San Miguel Corp., Kelly Boncan, Pink Patio Resorts managing director and Eric Mallari, account manager of 88.3 Citylite.**

# Beach 'volley' championship on

By Dennis Eroa

BORACAY—Defending men's champion Foundation University of Dumaguete starts its title-retention bid when it battles Metro Manila qualifier PATTS today at the start of 6th Nestea Beach Volleyball University championships here.

The other men's matches pit Central Colleges of the Philippines versus Pampanga Agricultural College; Far Eastern University vs University of San Jose-Recoletos; and Mapua vs La Salle-Dasmariñas.

Women's favorite Foundation University also begins its quest to make it a double celebration as it clashes with Adamson. Letran meets Baguio Colleges Foundation in the opener at 8:30 a.m.

In another game, St. Jude College tackles La Salle-Dasmariñas.

Spicing the opening of this much-applauded tournament is a celebrity match featuring Miriam Quiambao and Isabel Granada.

# Paragon Cup at Club Intramuros Sunday

THE PARAGON of Scholarship Foundation Inc. will hold its first-ever Paragon Cup Golf Tournament on Sunday (May 12) at the historic Club Intramuros Golf course in Manila. Tee off time is from 7 to 10 a.m.

Tournament chair Camilo E. Pada hopes that the tourney will generate participation from various professionals reflective of the membership of the foundation which consists of lawyers, doctors, academicians, and businessmen.

Led by its chair, UP President Dr. Francisco Nemezio, and president, lawyer Dan P. Calica, the Foundation aims to conduct activities which will harness and develop the knowledge, skills and experiences of the Filipino youth to make them productive, responsible and effective members of Philippine society.

For details, contact the Foundation Secretariat at 436-3484.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

# 2 share B. Nelson lead; Tiger 8 down

DURANT

IRVING, Texas—Coming off his first top-10 finish of the year on the PGA Tour, Bryce Molder had plenty of confidence Thursday and posted a 7-under 63 for a share of the lead in the Byron Nelson Classic.

Coming off a three-week break after winning the Masters, Tiger Woods had plenty of rust and was nowhere near the lead.

"I kept it under 80," Woods said when asked if he could take anything positive out of a blustery day that magnified his mistakes, leading to bogeys on two of the final four holes for a 1-over 71 on the easier Cottonwood Valley course.

Molder has no such concerns.

After a tie for ninth last week in New Orleans, which made him eligible for the strong field in the Verizon Nelson Classic, Molder birdied five of six holes down the back nine of the TPC at Las Colinas and finished tied with Joe Durant.

Molder doesn't even have a card on the Buy.com Tour, so every week is important in his big to earn a spot in the big leagues without going to qualifying school. In New Orleans, he was in contention on the back nine until bogeys on the last three holes.

"I felt like I played good enough to win the golf tournament," Molder said. "I can take that with me this week and know that wasn't my best last week, so it doesn't necessarily take my very best golf to have a chance to win."

Durant, a two-time winner on tour last year, had his 63 on Cottonwood Valley.

Despite 20 mph (32 kph) gusts typical of Texas this time of the year, scores were typically low.

Nick Price, who contended at the Nelson last year, Lee Janzen, Frank Lickliter, David Gossett and Esteban Toledo shot 64s, while Steve Flesch was among those at 65.

David Duval, who had an MRI exam on his right shoulder on Wednesday and found nothing but tendinitis, turned in a 66 and began to wonder whether his fortunes might finally turn around this week.

Two months ago, Duval described his season as a "train wreck," with no top 10s this year. Since then, he has missed the cut in the Masters and the shoulder injury from landing on his face while snowboarding hasn't gone away.

"Turns out that train had toxic chemicals on it," he said. **AP**

## Owen paces Woosnam

SUTTON COLDFIELD, England —Greg Owen of England, driving immaculately at The Belfry course where the Ryder Cup will be played this fall, shot a 6-under-par 66 Thursday to take the first-round lead in the Benson and Hedges International.

The 30-year-old Owen, who lives just 45 minutes from the course, birdied his 17th hole - the 8th - to move in front of Ian Woosnam, whose 67 began with an eagle-2 with a 140-yard 7-iron. **AP**

# Sorenstam ahead by 2 shots

FRANKLIN, Tennessee—Coming off her worst performance of the season, Annika Sorenstam shot a bogey-free 7-under 65 Thursday to take a two-stroke lead in the Aerus Electrolux USA Championship.

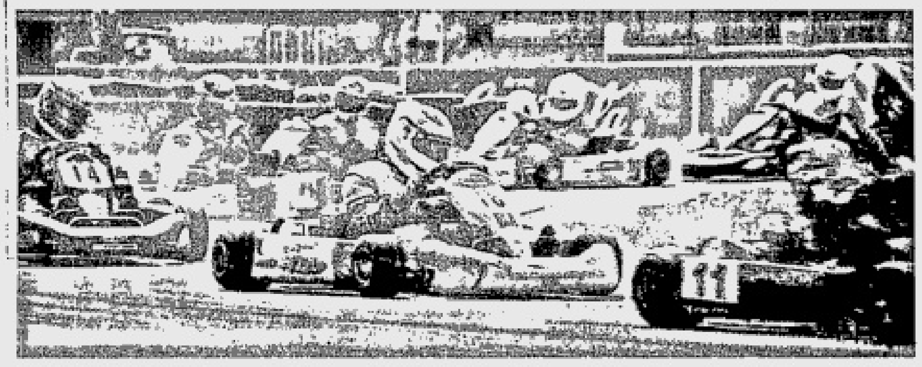
"I feel like I got to play a little bit," the Swedish star said after her second-lowest round of the year.

"That's what I need right now, to play with no break," added Sorenstam, who tied for 59th last week in the rain-shortened tournament in Georgia. "This is a four-day tournament, so if there's a problem, at least we'll get in three rounds."

She took three weeks off before last week's Chick-Fil-A Charity Championship only to have rain disrupt the tournament, eventually shortening the 54-hole event to 36 holes spread over three days.

Clouds and a rain less than an hour after the first group teed off threatened a repeat of last week. But the rain was sporadic, and the sun came out by mid-afternoon. Sixty-five players were under par in the first round as players took advantage of the soft, smooth greens at the Legends club and attacked the pins.

"The course is in good shape," Sorenstam said. "I didn't know if it was going to rain or not, but the last 13 or 14 holes, it was perfect. The greens are soft, so you can fire it at the pins. **AP**



**KARTING SERIES**

**Kart I protégé Dado Peña (middle) bides his time in the fourth leg of the 2002 Shell Karting Super Series sponsored by Pilipinas Shell, Casino Filipino, Bridgestone, ZED, Nokia and Coca-Cola Bottlers at the Carmona Circuit Philippines. Tagged as the next karting superstar, Peña eventually pulled away to win the Intercon-A Class over Arvin Drueco of Edgesports-Castrol, Demvel's Tyson Sy, Mandy and back-to-back winner Jeremy Marquez.**

## COKE NETFEST

# Dandan, Villarete forge duel

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—Boys' 14-under top seed Kyle Dandan of Colegio San Agustin outplayed Ralph Kevin Barte of Davao, 6-2, 6-3, and second seed Raymond Villarete of La Salle-Greenhills demolished No. 5 Russell Arcilla Jr., 6-0, 6-0, Thursday night to forge a title showdown in the first Coca-Cola National Tennis Championships at the New Subic Bay International Sports and Tennis Center here.

In the girls' 16-under, Bukidnon's Arra Micayabas defeated Davao Oriental's Patricia Adaza, 6-1, 6-2, to advance in the finals against Bacolod's Alyssa Labay, a 6-0, 6-1 winner over Amanda Romero.

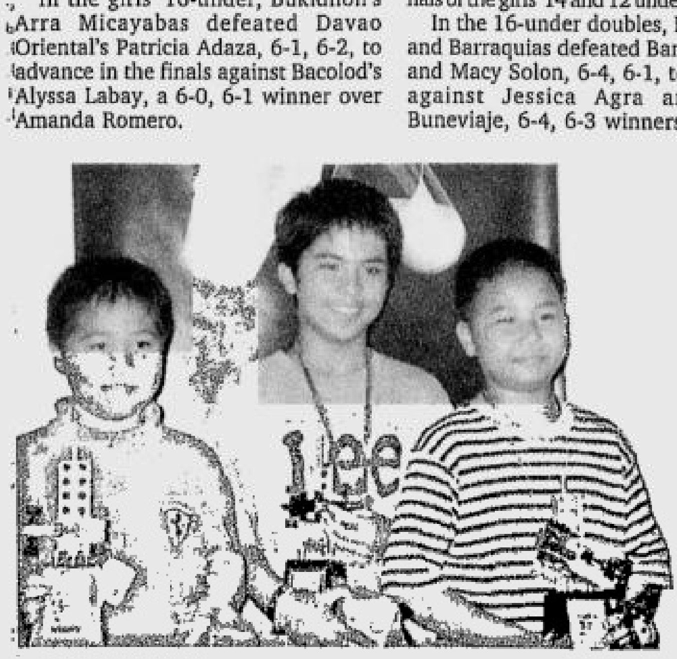
Micayabas downed Dumaguete City's Melody Barraquias, 6-2, 6-2, and Labay trounced Albay's Catherine Flores, 6-4, 6-4, to dispute the 18-under title in this Group Metropolitan Authority Chair Felicito Payumo, Union Bank, Union Cement, Chris Sports, Truflex, Dunlop, Wilson and Adidas.

Jessica Agra, also of Colegio San Agustin, and Bambi Zoleta of Mary Hill College-Lucena City, marched into the finals of the girls' 14 and 12 under divisions.

In the 16-under doubles, Micayabas and Barraquias defeated Bambi Zoleta and Macy Solon, 6-4, 6-1, to advance against Jessica Agra and Anna Buneviaje, 6-4, 6-3 winners over Joy Cabisong and Jin Querubin.

In the boys' 18-under doubles, Joseph Arcilla and Yannick Guba survived Dumoran brothers James and Oswaldo, 4-6, 7-5, 6-4, to advance in the finals against Irwin de Guzman and Patrick John Tierro, who struggled past Andrew Adaza and Ronald Joven, 6-4, 4-6, 6-4.

Other finalists in the doubles class were Ralph Barte-James Pang and Christian Canlas-Mauric Lao (14-under), Patrick Arevalo-Gerard Ngo and Francis Alcantara-Elsanto Santos (12-under) and Ernesto Pantua-Bernardine Siso and Martina Guba-Akio Sy (unisex 10-under).



**RACE WINNERS**

**Slot Car Pilipinas together with Cadbury as major sponsor recently held slot car races at the Orient Express racecourse at the Shangri-La Plaza. Emerging winners in the 15 and under category were (from left) Roberto Vea (3rd), Mat Padilla (1st) and Emman Punay (2nd).**

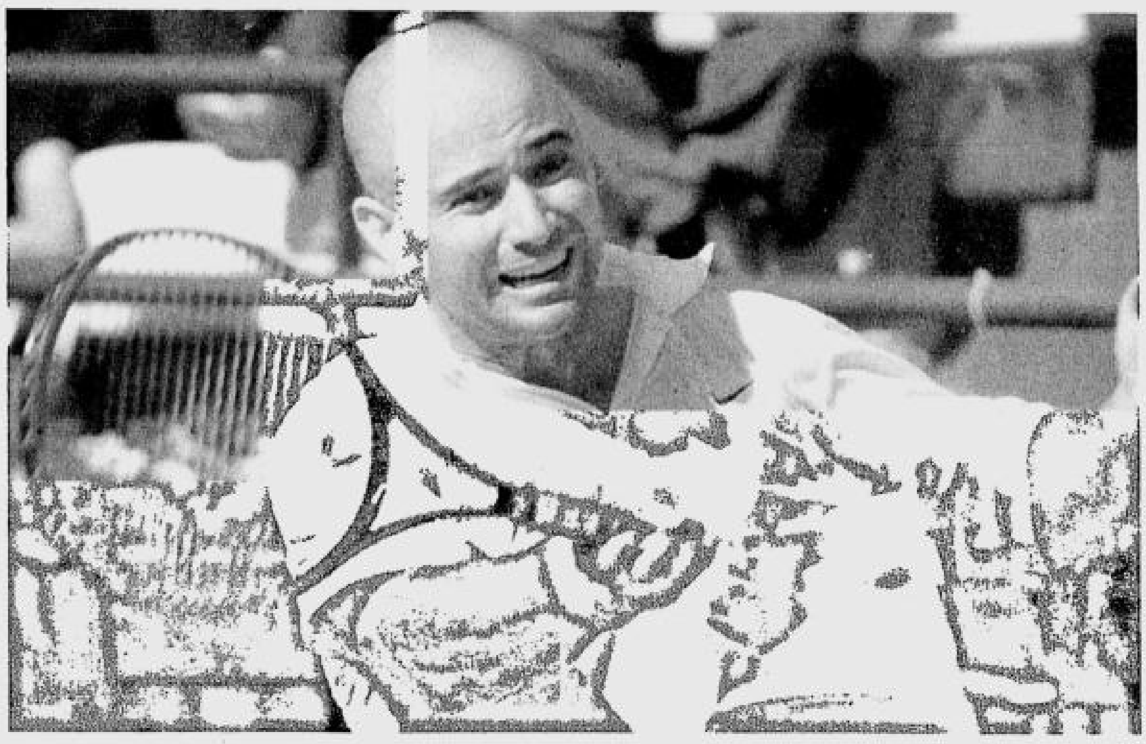
# GP live at Craic

F1 Club Live members get together anew at The Craic at 7 p.m. tomorrow, May 12, to watch and cheer on their favorite drivers and teams in the Austrian Grand Prix, the 6th round of the 2002 Formula One Grand Prix championships series.

The F1 Club Live's presentation of the Austrian Grand Prix is sponsored by the Craic, Toyota and Smart.

Ferrari's Michael Schumacher will again be the marked man in the A1 Ring on raceday. Schumacher is riding high in his best season start ever and is right on pace in his bid for a fifth Grand Prix title this season. Schumacher's biggest challenge will be coming from his younger brother Ralf and the fiery Colombian Juan Pablo Montoya, both from the BMW Williams Racing Team.

The Craic is home to the F1 Club Live, a growing group of diehard F1 fans who converge at a single venue on F1 racedays to simultaneously watch the live satellite feeds of the races over food and drinks, cheering and heckling, an array of games and prizes.



AP

**TENNIS ACTION**

**Andre Agassi returns a shot to Argentina's Aguston Calleri during the fourth day of Rome's Tennis Masters Series at Rome's Foro Italico on Thursday. Agassi triumphed, 7-6 (4), 7-5, to enter the quarterfinals. Also advancing were Agassi's compatriots Andy Roddick and James Blake. In Berlin, Serena Williams beat Bulgarian Magdaleena maleeva, 7-6, 6-4, while Jennifer Capriati ripped Iroda Tulyaganova of Uzbekistan, 6-2, 6-0, to advance to the quarterfinals of the German Open.**

# POC head Dayrit elected chair of powerful SEAG committee

DAYRIT

PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee president Celso L. Dayrit gained a significant honor for the country recently when he was unanimously elected chair of the powerful Southeast Asian Games Federation Executive Committee in Hanoi, Vietnam.

Dayrit was nominated by Olympic Council of Malaysia president, HRM prince Tunku Imran, who said "Dayrit is a very experienced sports leader and his expertise and vision toward sports development will definitely lead to a stronger SEA Games Federation."

In his response, Dayrit said: "I am honored to have been elected the first chairman of the new SEAG Federation Executive Committee which will oversee the federation's affairs over the next four years. Our vision is to transform the SEA Games into an important jumping board for our athletes to excel in higher level competitions such as the Asian Games and the World Olympics."

Dayrit thanked his colleagues (from 10 SEAG member-countries) "for your trust and confidence, especially now that we have reached another crossroad in the life of the (SEAG) federation."

The SEAG Federation Council recently amended its Charter, giving the executive committee the task to manage the (federation) over a permanent period, with the chair and members to serve a fixed term of four years.

# Subic int'l triathlon gets under way June 2

THE 9TH Subic Bay International Triathlon (Subit) on June 2 will mark the pioneering implementation of the Under-23 and Junior Sprint (16-19) age categories in Asia.

Following the approval of the International Triathlon Union, the new scheme will be featured in the Triathlon World Championships in Cancun, Mexico on Nov. 10.

The 9TH Subit is supported by the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, Speedo, Enervon, Gerry's Grill Subic, Asia-Pacific Insulation, Balikatan, Hotel La Corona, Philippine Olympic Committee and the Philippine Sports Commission.

For inquiries, call 0917-9116842, 0916-4494789, 0917-4217913 and 0916-8421114. Subscribe for free triathlon email at Ridge Triathlon http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ridgetri Email TRAP at carrtom@mydestiny.net

# Tacloban hosts clinic

FOR the first time in Milo best Center's long history, it will hold a basketball clinic in Tacloban City from April 13 to 18.

No less than BEST Center founder Nic Jorge will conduct the five-day classes organized by the Commission on Social Action of Sto. Nino Parish chaired by Adrian A. Banzon.

Jorge will be joined by coaches Edwin Barber and Jerome Maramag in teaching young aspirants basketball basics.

Interested parties may call (63-53) 3221-2602 for more details.

The Tacloban clinic is the last provincial session to be conducted by BEST Center this summer. The country's most successful cage school is about to finish its classes all over the country, from Vigan, Ilocos Sur up to Tawi-Tawi.

## BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1990, Tessie Cario of University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos led the 4 x 100 and 4 x 400 m relay team to victory to power Negros-Panay to the team championship of the 12th National UAAP Games at the Pampanga Sports Complex.

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▩ Teeners stab hospital guard to death/A22
▩ Militant women's group protests PPA suspension /A22

# Vice mayor caught on video leaving partner's condo unit

MERCADO

By Alcuin Papa

**SECURITY cameras in the condominium unit of Raquel Ambrosio, the live-in partner of Makati City Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado, had shown that the vice mayor left about an hour before Ambrosio was found bleeding from a gunshot wound in her stomach by sisters Irene and Noemi Bartolome.**

PO2 Juancho Ibis said Mercado was caught on video leaving Ambrosio's condo unit on the 20th floor of the Peak Towers on Leviste Street in Salcedo Village, Makati at 9:45 p.m. on April 24.

The Bartolome sisters arrived in Ambrosio's condo about 11 p.m. and rushed her to the Makati Medical Center where she died the following morning.

The investigation of Ambrosio's death might be closed next week, according to SPO4 Leonardo Timtiman, officer-in-charge of the Homicide Division.

But Mercado has yet to give his statement on the case as he had promised on Friday, Timtiman said. "We are still waiting for the statement," he said. "If there are no more witnesses, evidence and testimonies available to

VICE MAYOR/ A22

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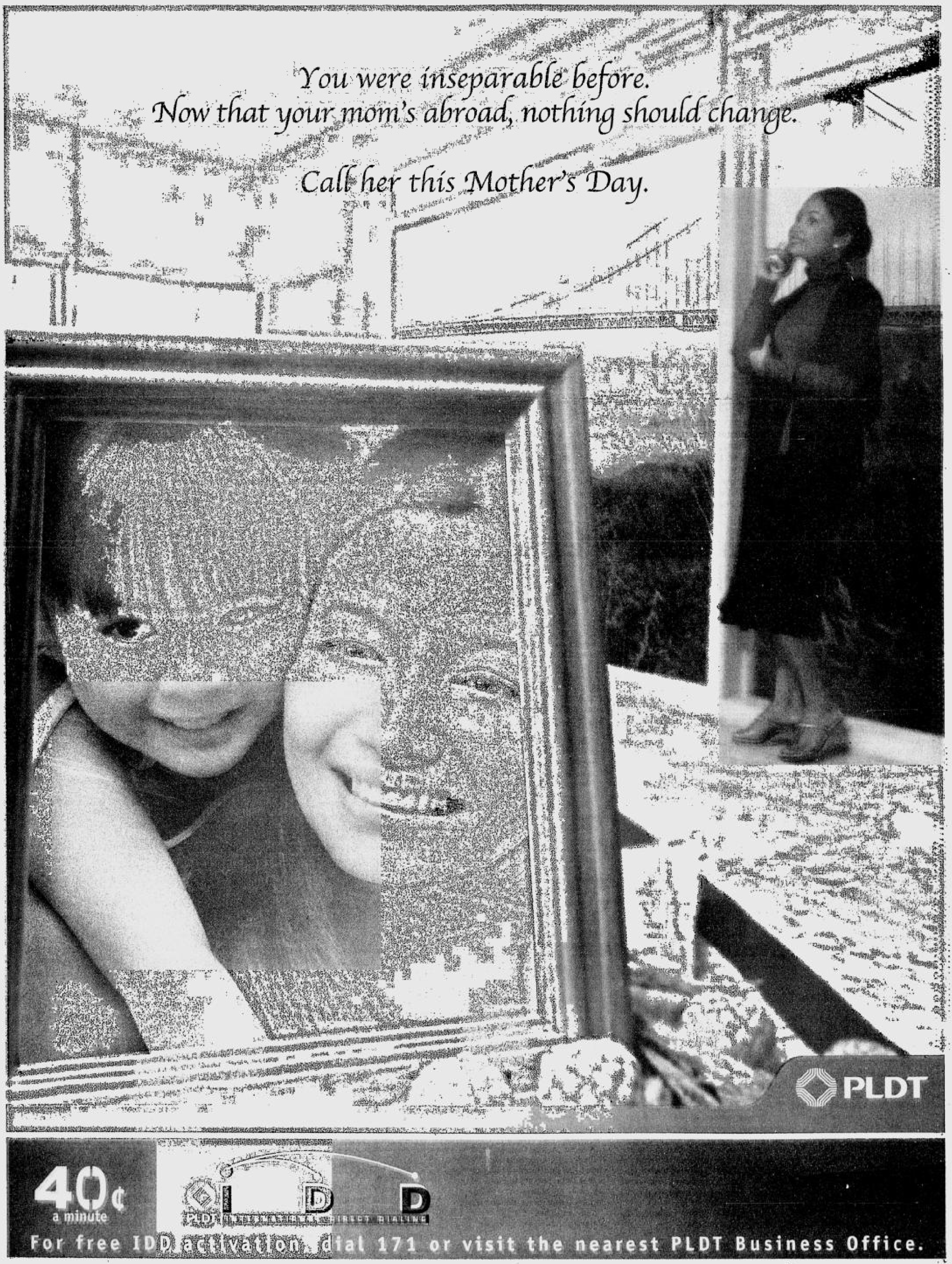
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# Teeners stab hospital guard to death

**By Philip Tubeza**

YOUTH gangs seem to be getting bolder and more violent in Manila.

A day after a 17-year-old gang member was killed in a drive-by shooting, armed members of another gang tried to barge into the Ospital ng Sampaloc to go after a 14-year-old boy they had beaten up, police said.

When the hospital's security guard Amparo Fortunato, 30, tried to stop them, they killed him, police said.

Fortunato, a City Security Force Guard, died after unidentified young men, armed with knives and homemade shotguns repeatedly stabbed him, said Detective William Gondranios of the Western Police District-homicide section.

Fortunato suffered stab wound mostly in his back, police said.

The stabbing occurred at 1:30 a.m. at the hospital on Gen. Geronimo Street Sampaloc, investigation showed. Police said the suspects were after the 14-year-old nephew of Severino Leguena, who was brought to the hospital.

The suspects had beaten up the boy and had thrown a rock in his face, police said.

Investigation showed the suspects learned that the boy was taken to the Ospital ng Maynila and went there.

They tried to enter the hospital but Fortunato, sensing that they were up to no good, did not let them in, police said.

The suspects left but later returned with their other gang members, armed with homemade shotguns and knives, police said.

Investigation showed Fortunato stood his ground and blocked the path of the suspects when they tried to enter the hospital.

Infuriated, the suspects went amuck and ganged up on the security guard, pulling out their knives and stabbing Fortunato repeatedly in the body, police said.

The hospital's two other guards tried to help Fortunato and fired warning shots in the air to stop the brawl, police said.

Then the smoke cleared, Fortunato was already slumped on the ground bleeding to death from the numerous stab wounds in his body. The suspects immediately fled as Fortunato's buddies brought him inside the hospital where he died while undergoing surgery, police said.

Authorities are now trying to determine the identities of the suspects, police said. ***With Edson Tandoc***

**THESE women who call themselves "Ilaw ng Tahanan" light up their Meralco bill to protest the controversial Power Purchase Adjustment.**

JOAN BONDOC

# Militant women's group protests PPA suspension

**By Agnes E. Donato**

"*PUNDING-pundi na ang mga ilaw ng tahanan.*"

Loosely translated into English, the Filipino phrase means the women of the house are fed up with the controversial Purchased Power Adjustment, which the newly formed group called *Ilaw ng Tahanan* wants abolished.

The women, composed of mothers, legislators and members of the militant group Gabriela yesterday said that President Macapagal-Arroyo's suspension of the National Power Corp's PPA was not enough.

"The Manila Electric Co.'s proposal for the unbundling of rates still stands and the PPA has not been scrapped," said Bayan Muna Rep. Liza Maza in the group's launching yesterday in Quezon City.

Maza explained that under the unbundled rates scheme, the PPA will only be incorporated in different kinds of charges and Meralco could increase its rates by as much as P1.12 per kilowatt hour.

With the President's order, consumers will only get a P.085 per kilowatt hour deduction in the PPA, Masa said.

Ilaw ng Tahanan also called on Meralco to refund its consumers the P12.34 billion it allegedly "stole" from them.

"It is but just that households be given back this P12.34 billion illegally charged by Meralco. In the first place, passing on their over- under-recoveries to consumers, and the charging of PPA is not only unjust, but also illegal," Maza said.

Gabriela-NCR secretary general Avic Villanueva, another Ilaw ng Tahanan convenor, urged Meralco consumers not to pay all of their PPA charges.

She said that women and mothers would troop to Meralco branches on May 15 with their own "billing statement" to protest Meralco's PPA collection.

The "billing statement," a modified version of the power company's electric bill, bore the name of Meralco President Jesus Francisco as consumer. It also contained the group's demand for rebates.

The Ilaw ng Tahanan will also join the scheduled protest blackout and noise barrage on May 16 in selected Metro Manila areas.

Quezon City 2nd District Rep. Maite Defensor said that President Macapagal's move to suspend the PPA charges, albeit temporary, is a "welcome relief."

She assured that Congress is looking for a "permanent" solution to the issue. ***With Angeli Alagcan***

# Lawyer asks DOJ to protect witness in nurse's slay

**By Christian V. Esguerra**

THE LAWYER of the family of slain private nurse Belma Abella wants the two key witnesses in the crime to be placed under the protection of the Justice Department.

In a letter, Melanio "Batas" Mauricio Jr. asked the Department of Justice to include in its witness protection program Wensis Tablang, 31, driver-bodyguard of suspect Marybeth Lopez de Leon, and security guard Conrado Erasca.

Mauricio also requested that Abella's husband Raul and eldest son Jansen be placed under DOJ protection.

"We believe that steps should be taken to provide protection to (Tablang) and the other witnesses in the case, including Mr. Abella and his son...to ensure their safety and presence when this case is already prosecuted in court," the lawyer said in his letter.

Mauricio made the request following reports that Tablang had gone missing from his houses in Caloocan City and Quezon City.

Tablang's supposed disappearance could deal a big blow on the murder charge filed against De Leon since he was the one who implicated his boss Abella's killing.

In his sworn statement, Tablang said he saw De Leon holding a gun when she alighted from her BMW sedan, leaving Abella lay dying inside the car last April 12 in front of BF International Village.

He told police that his boss even asked him to come with her and leave Abella.

Security guard Erasca, who was detailed at the village entrance at the time of the incident, supposedly saw Tablang and De Leon grappling for the gun after the shooting.

# Diplomats kidnapped, released after ransom

ON TARGET

*Ramon Tulf*

THE EXPOSÉ in this space about some anti-narcotics cops planting evidence on innocent citizens has borne fruit.

A Mindanao congressman has filed a resolution seeking an inquiry, in aid of legislation, "on whether certain anti-narcotics agents of the PNP are involved in the unlawful practice of planting evidence" on innocent individuals during so-called buy-bust operations.

Rep. Prospero A. Pichay Jr. (1st District, Surigao del Sur) said in his resolution there is "growing public perception" that some cops are themselves involved in drug traffic or taking drugs. At one point, he said, the PNP required some of its members to undergo drug tests to isolate those who might be into drugs.

* * *

Pichay's resolution was long overdue. But as the cliché goes, better late than never.

There ought to be a law against policemen who plant evidence on innocent citizens, whether such evidence be drugs, money, guns or knives.

If there is no law yet severely punishing policemen who frame up law-abiding citizens, the results of the congressional investigation proposed by Pichay should prod Congress into enacting such a law.

* * *

Policemen in this country are so powerful they can arrest a citizen if they don't like his or her looks.

A citizen can be held in custody under the Anti-Vagrancy Law. This outmoded law should be scrapped as it is used by some unscrupulous cops against innocent citizens.

Many policemen become abusive, even if they started out with the best intentions, because some laws make them so. The Anti-Vagrancy Law and the law on arresting suspected drug users are among such laws.

* * *

Here's a clarification of the item in this space about the Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC) last Tuesday, May 7.

Transportation Secretary Pantaleon "Bebot" Alvarez was not yet head of the department when DOTC middle-level executives approved the setting up of the proposed Metro Rail Transit (MRT) 4.

MRT 4, which would connect Quiapo, Manila to the Lower Batasan area in Quezon City, has become controversial because it would compete with MRT 3, now under construction. MRT 3 would connect Katipunan in Cubao, Quezon City, to Quiapo, Manila.

But this doesn't mean that Alvarez should not act on the controversial MRT 4 construction.

* * *

Also, although the US Embassy wrote a letter-protest to Alvarez over the delay in the putting up of instrument landing systems (ILS) at the Davao City Airport, it was not the DOTC chief who was blocking the project.

The Air Transportation Office (ATO), an agency under the DOTC, is to blame for the delay.

Alvarez told me over lunch on Wednesday he would order the ATO to award the contract to the Airport Systems International Inc. (ASII) of Kansas City, which won in a public bidding.

It seems the ATO wants to give the project to the losing bidder, the Navia Aviation of Oslo, Norway.

The US Embassy protest was made because ASII is an American company.

* * *

Subordinate DOTC officials are running circles around Alvarez whose appointment has yet to be confirmed by the Commission on Appointments (CA).

Alvarez, according to DOTC insiders sympathetic to him, is sort of a lame duck in running the department because his confirmation is still hanging in the air.

A member of Alvarez's staff said that the DOTC chief will have complete control over the department, as well as its corrupt officials, as soon as he gets the CA nod.

* * *

Kidnappers do not spare foreign diplomats in this country.

A week ago, I received a report that Claudia Gallmeier Melo, secretary to the German ambassador on special projects, was kidnapped along with her husband, a Brazilian. I didn't get the name of the husband.

The couple were vacationing in Banawe when they were taken by armed men. They were riding in a rented car which the kidnappers flagged down.

* * *

The report said that Ms Melo and her husband were forced by the kidnappers to withdraw cash from a bank through their ATM cards.

Husband and wife were separated by the kidnappers, the report said.

The German embassy, according to the report, paid ransom for the couple's release.

* * *

Ms Melo and her husband hurriedly left the country after their release.

I got the report from a friend of Ms Melo whom she called from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport before she and her husband boarded the plane for Germany.

With the Abu Sayyaf and the Pentagon Gang in Mindanao and kidnappers victimizing even foreign diplomats, only the very adventurous foreigners or those who have shady business dealings here would come to our shores.

* * *

The anti-terrorism pact signed Tuesday by the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia is significant in that the three countries will now share information about the activities of suspected terrorists.

The Philippines will benefit from the anti-terrorism treaty more than the two neighboring countries. Malaysia and Indonesia used to be training grounds of Moro insurgents. Arms were shipped to the Moro rebels through Malaysia in the 1970s.

But that was then when Malaysia was threatened by this country which trained Filipino commandos to infiltrate Sabah and create destabilization in that Malaysian federal state. Malaysia can't be blamed for giving the country a dose of its own medicine.

The treaty has officially reconciled Malaysia and the Philippines.

# Actor quits majority group in Manila City Council

**By Jerome Aning**

MANILA Councilor Isko Moreno quit the majority group of the City Council after his colleagues delayed approving a law that would speed up the expropriation of a piece of land for his constituents in Tondo.

The former actor-turned-politician announced his resignation on Friday morning before the session was abruptly terminated when an opposition councilor questioned the quorum.

"Sometimes when you help people, you have to make sacrifices. I have to side with my constituents," he said in an interview after the session.

Moreno, Francisco Domagaso in real life, was a movie matinee idol when he joined Manila politics as second district councilor.

But Moreno refused to call himself as "now belonging to the minority" nor as an "independent." He said he would "continue supporting the legislative program of the Council, as long as the proposed laws benefit city residents."

A councilor, who asked not be named, accused Moreno of grandstanding and of being confused because he had incomplete data.

Another said that Moreno probably felt he had no choice but to redeem his image and not let down the Pitong Gatang residents present in the session hall gallery.

Another alderman hinted that Moreno's resignation is part of his scheme to increase his "winnability" when he runs for a higher office in 2004.

The controversy stemmed from Moreno's proposal to amend City Ordinance No. 7974 that he also authored and the Council passed three years ago.

The ordinance expropriates 4,140.97 square meters of land on Pitong Gatang Street in Barangays 65 and 78 in Tondo for P24,531,300.

Moreno, councilor of the 2nd district, said his bill must be approved so that the expropriation proceedings, which would take place in a court, could proceed.

About 70 families have been squatting on the lot. Some of them had been there since 1939.

Under the law, 15 percent of the P24.5 million has to be initially released by the city government as proof of its sincerity in buying the lot for the residents, said Moreno.

For about an hour, he engaged the majority councilors in a heated debate as he fought for his bill's third and final reading.

Led by acting presiding officer Alejandro "Kim" Atienza, the majority councilors said the city's coffers are already strained.

They said that the City Treasurer's Office should first issue a certification of availability of funds before Moreno's bill could be considered.

"The people will end up holding mere scraps of paper if the bill is approved without funds to back it," Atienza said. "And it would be the mayor who would turn out to be the bad guy."

There were also many earlier approved expropriation ordinances that are also waiting for funding, he added.

But Moreno said it was the Pitong Gatang residents who followed up the expropriation process. Because of their efforts, part of the 15 percent, which amounts to P1 million, had been released last year, he said.

Moreno said that no less than Mayor Atienza himself called the Urban Settlements Office to order the release of the remaining P2.68 million last month.

A document he provided showed city budget officer Alicia Moscaya reporting that as of April 5, 2002, the USO had about P13 million from its funds for lot acquisition and expropriation.

# Vice mayor caught on video . . .

From page A21

contradict our initial findings, we might rule it as a suicide."

Police earlier asked Mercado for his statement on the supposed suicide of Ambrosio, but the Makati City Public Information Office instead released a statement that said Mercado was asking for an end to "speculations" that he had anything to do with Ambrosio's death.

Another statement from Mercado's office said Ambrosio was suffering from severe post-partum depression or post-natal blues after the birth of her son three moths ago.

Earlier, Makati police investigators cleared Mercado of any involvement in Ambrosio's death.

## FROM HERRERA TO RUFINO

# Busy Makati street now goes by a different name

**By Alcuin Papa**

HERRERA Street in the busy Makati Commercial Business District has taken on a different name.

Yesterday, it was renamed Don Vicente A. Rufino Street.

A simple ceremony yesterday morning marked the occasion in the heart of the country's financial center.

Those who attended were members of the Rufino family and friends led by Philippine Daily Inquirer Chair Marixi Rufino-Prieto, PDI President Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, her husband Philip, Charlie Rufino, Ma. Paz Rufino and Macario Rufino.

Also in attendance were Dennis Valdez, Makati City Councilor Francisco Lichauco, grandson Jon-Jon Rufino, and officials of Ayala Land Inc. and the Makati Commercial Estate Association.

Monsignor Manny Gabriel celebrated Mass at the Rufino Tower before the new signpost to the Vicente A. Rufino Street at the corner of Ayala Avenue was unveiled.

The Makati City Council approved the renaming of the street when it passed resolution 2002-014 last April 23.

The resolution, authored by Councilors Lichauco and Ricardo Javier, recognizes Don Vicente A. Rufino as "one of the notable trailblazers and pioneers in the early development of Makati."

Don Vicente Rufino was also "acknowledged to have significantly contributed to the development of Makati as an entertainment center through the Rizal Theatrical Co. Inc. that provided Makati residents with quality movies through the Rizal and Quad cinemas."

The resolution was passed on its second and final reading.

# *4 robbers killed in Bulacan shootout*

**By Carmela Reyes,**
*PDI Central Luzon Desk*

FOUR armed men who, police said, were about to rob a bank in Barangay Sto. Niño, Meycauayan, Bulacan, were shot and killed by a police team yesterday afternoon.

Only three of the dead men were identified: Elmer Cayetano, Noel Lebantino and Arnold Soon.

Senior Supt. Edgardo Acuña, Bulacan police director, said the attempt to rob the 21st Century Bank here was foiled when the bank personnel used the alarm system to alert authorities about the presence of suspicious-looking men in a Toyota Revo and Honda City near the premises.

A joint team from the First Mobile Group, Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, and Provincial Investigation and Intelligence Division, chased the suspects and engaged them in a shootout at 2:30 p.m.

Police seized from the suspects a 9-mm pistol, a .38-caliber revolver, a shotgun, a .357-caliber rifle, four hand grenades, several live rounds, and sketches of the bank's premises.

# Ulirang Ina 2002 awardees honored on Mother's Day

EVERY year on the second Sunday of May, we come together to celebrate Mother's Day, a once a year homage to the woman "whose hand rocks the cradle and rules the world."

This wonderful woman we call "Mother," "Mom," "Mommy," or Nanay" seems to have extraordinary abilities, able to stretch the peso to the maximum, soothe our tired bodies after a long day at work, bring a smile to our faces and lift our spirits so we can carry on.

The Ulirang Ina Awards wants the community to focus its attention on these model women, who strive and sacrifice for their children, family and community.

The Ulirang Ina Awards 2002, with the support of Choice, DM of Mead Johnson, Red Ribbon, Belco Marketing, Rain Insurance and Country Bankers, Ivahrick Trading, Comfoods and PSCO, will celebrate Mother's day tomorrow at the ballroom of the Intercontinental Hotel in Makati. An 8:30 a.m. Mass will kick off the awarding ceremony hosted by Baby O'Brien.

This year brings a bumper crop of 35 mothers, all worthy to be called "Uliran" or "Model."

The awards will be presented by Honorary Chairperson Justice Consuelo Y. Santiago, with Foundation President Wilfredo M. Talag and Awards Chairperson Leticia M. Talag.

The Tanyag na Ulirang Ina awards goes to Dr. Eileen Abesamis-Cubillan, the Ulirang Ina ng Tahanan goes to Consolacion R. Santiago, Virginia E. Olores-Steban and Corazon Iglesia-Pambid.

The Ulirang Ina ng Angkan award goes to Eloisa Dellosa-Dy, while Leonilla M. Peralta and Estrella S. Cleofe will be conferred the Posthumous Award.

The Sectoral Award, which honors career women and mothers, are Vienna A. Ochoa for education, and Dr. Josefina Suarez, Ed.D. for law. In the judiciary, the awardees are Court of Appeals Justice Josefina G. Salonga and lawyer Ofelia Cacetas-Santos.

In government service, the awardees are Rep. Belle Angara-Castillo, Rep. Connie A. Dy, Mayor Victoria Arevalo Lao Lim, Gov. Valentina G. Plaza, Board Member Godofreda O. Tirol, and Mayor Myrna M. Torres.

The socio-civic/religious sector awardees are Perlita C. Bengzon, Luzviminda Z. Francisco, Honorata S. Ignacio, Marvina R. Liban, Norma O. Lim, Rosellyn E. Magsaysay, Daisy S. Payumo and Hermogena M. Santiago.

In medicine and allied sciences, the awardees are Dr. Carmen L. Alfonso, Dr. Elvira A. Andaman, Flora Janet Garcia and Maria Eloisa E. Villaraza.

The lone awardee for the Military sector is Lt. Col. Ramona P. Go. In the business and industry sector, the awardees are Myrna C. Bituin, Carmelita C. Deato, Eulalia G. Flores and Rosario A. Montenegro. For arts and culture, the awardee is Helen Gamboa-Sotto.

To all the mothers out there, The Ulirang Ina Awards 2002 salute you and wish you Happy Mother's Day. Mabuhay!

# Councilor seeks protection for endangered species

**By Jerome Aning**

THE SALE or even the possession of endangered animals might be banned soon in Manila after Councilor Elizabeth Rivera proposed an ordinance that would penalize a person found selling or owning such endangered species.

Rivera said the city government should help protect and ensure the survival of the country's remaining endangered animal species and promote ecological consciousness among residents.

Her proposed ordinance imposes a P500-fine or a day in jail on any violators.

The animals will be confiscated and delivered to the Manila Zoological and Botanical Garden of the Ninoy Aquino Wildlife Park for care and protection and for eventual return to the wild.

Animals covered by the bill include those that have been listed endangered by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the National Parks and Wildlife Bureau, and private organizations such as World Ecology Foundation and Greenpeace.

Councilor Alejandro "Kim" Atienza, a collector of exotic animals, welcomed Rivera's proposal but said a distinction should be made between animals that were caught in the wild and animals bred in captivity.

He noted that many exotic animal collectors in fact help the survival of endangered species by raising the animals as pets, taking care of them and breeding them.

He suggested the banning on the sale and possession of animals that have been poached or captured from their natural habitats.

Atienza owns several snakes and other small reptilian species that are housed at the Manila Zoo.

# Manila unveils Thai-RP monument

**By Jerome Aning**

THE MANILA city government will formally unveil this afternoon in Sta. Ana a monument marking more than half a century of diplomatic relations and friendship between the Philippines and Thailand.

The Philippines-Thailand Friendship Circle, located at the intersection of Manuel Roxas and Jose Syquia Streets in Sta. Ana, is a potential tourist landmark in Eastern Manila.

The monument was first inaugurated on June 15, 1999 by virtue of City Ordinance 7964, commemorating 50 years of close relations between the two countries.

The site underwent a major face-lift and renovation under the collaborative efforts of City Hall, Rep. Mark Jimenez, the Philippine Tourism Authority and the Royal Thai Embassy.

Sixth district councilor Luciano "Lou" Veloso, one of those who facilitated the monument's construction, said he hopes the circle will become "an oasis in the midst of Manila's urban blight."

The park features a 10-foot waterfall, several trees, various hanging ornamental and tropical plants, and a landscaped garden with 18 different bonsai plants installed in wooden sawed-up pots.

The circle also has an authentic "bahay kubo" or thatched hut, a Thai-inspired sculpture, several steel benches, cemented lampposts and cobbled pavements.

The centerpiece of the project is the 20-foot tall "Angel of Unity," a metal sculpture by Ferdie Acuña which symbolizes the eternal friendship between Filipinos and Thais.

Expected to attend the ceremony are various city officials, Thai Ambassador Busba Bunnag, PTA general manager Nixon Kua, Cultural Center of the Philippines chair Baltazar Endriga and president Nestor Jardin, and National Commission for Culture and the Arts executive director Ma. Fina Yonzon.

13
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15
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18
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THE 24 candidates of the Miss Philippines pageant all vow to make a world of difference for the environment.

ERNIE SARMIENTO

# Miss Philippines 2002 candidates paint the pageant green

**By Marinel R. Cruz**

WHILE most contenders in other beauty pageants are preoccupied with "world peace," the 24 comely women of the Miss Philippines 2002 simply have the "green stuff" in their minds: Ecology, the Earth, environment.

These women are vying not just for a title, but for the honor of preserving the environment: To plant trees, dredge sewers, orient people on the most efficient way to segregate biodegradable from non-biodegradable waste.

The candidates were formally presented to the media on May 2 at the Hotel Inter-Continental poolside. The reigning Miss Philippines, Carlene Aguilar, will crown her successor tomorrow at the UP Theater in Diliman, Quezon City.

Candidate Joyce May Dionzon, 19, plans to create organizations that will focus on revitalizing natural water sources. To prepare for that event, she "reads newspapers, magazines and other materials that discuss the present state of the ecosystem."

### "Peace crusader"

Candidate April Rose Perez, who represents Western Mindanao, believes the Miss Philippines titlist must be an effective "crusader of peace, (an) ambassador that will promote the preservation of the environment."

If crowned Miss Philippines 2002, Justine Gabionza intends to use the fame and prestige of the title to its fullest.

"I would be known to many if I win, it would then be easier for me to encourage others to join organizations that I plan to put up to save the environment," she said.

In candidate Iris Llamera, the Caraga region this year is represented for the first time in the two-year-old pageant. Iris believes proper dissemination of information is key to a successful environmental mission.

### Plant a tree

Miss Philippines 2002 candidates have visited Metro Manila universities to raise funds and engage in tree-planting activities with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, according to Ramon Monzon, organizer of the event.

"(The women) will help the (Metro Manila Development Authority) to promote garbage segregation in several cities and municipalities in Manila," said Monzon, president of Carousel Productions Inc.

ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation co-produces this year's beauty search.

According to Monzon, the switch from another channel was made "to reach as many people as possible.

"Filipinos in the US, Australia, the Middle East and Europe will be able to watch Miss Philippines and Miss Earth through ABS-CBN's Filipino Channel," he said.

The pageant, to be hosted by Pia Guanio, Bobby Yan, Jon Salkin and Michi Valeriano, will air tomorrow at 9:30 p.m.

. Featured guest performers are Piolo Pascual, Anna Fegi, 17:28, Bayang Barrios and the Pinikpikan band.

### Arduous selection

The 24 candidates went through an arduous selection process. For the National Capital Region, Carousel Productions pre-screened a total of 108 aspirants, whittling the number down to 12.

CANDIDATE Joyce May Dionzon, 19.

The 12 other candidates were winners of regional Miss Philippines pageants organized and produced by Carousel Productions through its network of franchise holders.

"We want to showcase talents and beauties not only from Metro Manila," Monzon said. "This way, the whole country has a chance to participate."

This year's regional pageants were held in Baguio City, Agoo in La Union, Clark Freeport Zone, Balayan in Batangas, Sto. Domingo in Albay, Iloilo City, Cebu City, Tacloban in Leyte, Zamboanga City, Cagayan de Oro City, Davao City and Surigao City.

The winner of the contest will represent the Philippines to the Miss Earth International beauty search in Manila this November.

Miss Philippines 2002 will bring home P250,000 in cash. She will also receive other non-cash prizes like a trip to any destination via Korean Airlines, a scholarship grant from the Manuel L. Quezon University, and a one-year supply of Unilever and Avon products.

Special awards like the Best in Swimsuit, Best in Long Gown, Best in Talent, Miss Friendship and Miss Photogenic, will also be awarded.

This year's presenters are Sunsilk, Close-Up Crystal, Creamsilk Conditioner and Pond's skin whitening fluid and cream.

Sponsors are Avon Color and Banco Filipino, Talk n' Text, Hotel Inter-Continental Manila, Ricky Reyes Salon, Pag-Ibig Funds.

# Pasay dads threaten Naia 3 operation

**By Christian V. Esguerra**

THE CONTROVERSIAL operation of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 might be in peril.

Pasay councilors have filed an ordinance banning the establishment of fuel depots in the city for safety and security reasons.

"Being a city occupied by (mostly) residential buildings/houses, it is imperative that structures which will store combustible matter like gas, fuel, and flammable chemicals be prohibited," according to the recommendation of the city council's committee on engineering and public works.

The proposed ordinance is expected to deal a severe blow to the Manila International Airport Authority's plan to transfer the airport's aviation gas depot to Barangay 201 as part of the Naia Terminal 3 project.

Airport officers have been trying to convince local officials to authorize the transfer amid staunch opposition by barangay residents.

The proposed ordinance will ban the establishment of "combustible gas, diesel, gasoline or any kind of fuel depots" in Pasay.

Violators will be fined P5,000 and jailed for one year.

The penalty, arguably small, is expected to put up another legal barricade to the new airport terminal's operation.

Airport authorities are in a race against time to begin the operation by December to avoid shelling out huge amounts in penalty in case of delay.

The Terminal 3 is also facing stiff opposition from residents of Barangay Villamor where transmission lines are supposed to be installed.

They fear the electromagnetic field emitted by the lines might pose health problems.

# Residents ask: What will Bel-Air get from Mapua?

**By Christian V. Esguerra**

RESIDENTS of Bel-Air Village in Makati City yesterday said they would not gain anything but traffic congestion from the establishment of a Mapua Institute of Technology campus in their area.

"What will Bel-Air get from Mapua?" resident Rosalinda Francisco asked. "Will they (school officials) give outreach or scholarship programs for the poor people in Makati?"

Francisco said Mapua's new information and technology campus, which began operating last April 22, would only clog the Bel-Air area when the school year opens in June.

Francisco said that contrary to statements by Barangay Bel-Air chairperson Constancia Lichauco, the establishment of the campus was made without a "real" consultation among affected residents.

In a letter to Lichauco on Wednesday, Francisco said she was in a "quandary" as to why residents were invited to a meeting last April 20 supposedly to approve the provisions of a memorandum of agreement between Bel-Air and Mapua.

"During the meeting we were given the impression that we will have a hand in the MOA," she said. "I don't remember that it was ever approved."

Two days after the meeting, the new Mapua campus opened with the MOA already signed.

A provision in the agreement stipulates that Bel-Air will "issue the corresponding barangay clearance that is required for Mapua to acquire a permit to operate a school from the city government."

If indeed the residents had approved of the MOA during the April 20 meeting, Mapua practically had only a day to secure both a barangay clearance and a permit from the Makati government, Francisco said.

To address the possible traffic congestion in Bel-Air and nearby areas, Mapua officials had tapped the National Center for Transportation Studies to evaluate the traffic situation there.

Among their recommendations were the construction of a road above a creek that will connect Metropolitan and Gil Puyat avenues and the implementation of a new traffic scheme by January 2003.

Francisco said Mapua and Bel-Air officials should have implemented the traffic program before the campus was opened last month.

# Manila guard shoots 'cable guy' to death

**By Philip C. Tubeza**

HE WAS a construction worker. Then he became an electrician. Now he's a dead man.

The still unidentified man, who tried to disguise himself as a construction worker and then as an electrician to get inside a building in Sampaloc, Manila, was shot to death yesterday by the building's security guard, said Detective Edgardo Ko of the Western Police District-homicide section.

Butch Arpon, 37, of 443 Pacheco St. in Tondo, Manila, shot to death the unidentified man who had sneaked into the four-story boarding house at 614-618 M. Banahaw St., Sampaloc and tried to get away with bundles of electrical cables, Ko said.

Police described the unidentified man as aged between 36 and 39, 5-foot-6-inches tall, and brown-skinned.

Arpon was on duty at 2:30 a.m. yesterday when the man, who was then wearing a white T-shirt, suddenly approached the security guard and introduced himself as a construction worker.

He asked Arpon to allow him to go inside the building.

Arpon said he became suspicious since the construction of the building was already finished.

He said he refused to let the man enter the building.

A few minutes later, the man returned wearing a printed polo shirt.

Arpon said he again asked to go inside the building as he introduced himself to be an assistant electrician.

Sensing that he was talking to the same man he had turned away earlier, Arpon again refused to let the man inside the building, he said.

But the man later managed to sneak into the building without Arpon noticing him, police said.

# MSA to offer UPCAT review

MSA Academic Advancement Institute is offering a series of test preparation course for UPCAT (UP College Admission Test).

Each course covers 40 hours of lectures on test-taking strategies in Math, Science and English. It also included a simulated test.

The program began on May 6. Other programs are from May 13 to 31, and June 1 to July 27 and 28.

For details, please call the following: 925-7544, 925-7216, 435-6063, 929-9159, 929-9145, 646-8243 and 646-8245.

# Man bashed in the back of the head

ALVIN Manalo, 22, was killed before dawn yesterday while walking home with his ex-girlfriend from a party in Sampaloc, Manila.

Police said Manalo's ex-girlfriend has an ex-boyfriend who saw them together at the party and became jealous.

That ex-boyfriend, police added, assigned another man to do the dirty job of killing Manalo.

The assailant, a certain "Entoy," bashed Manalo in the nape with a piece of wood, said Detective Raul Olavario of the Western Police District Homicide section.

The suspect was described as 5-foot-6, with slim build and long hair, Olavario said.

He said the incident happened at around 1 a.m. on Onyx Street, San Andres Bukid, Manila.

Manalo, of Eureka Street, Coryville, Barangay La Paz, Makati City, had attended a birthday party in San Andres Bukid and met there his former girlfriend, Lorie Espiritu, 23, of Onyx Street.

Espiritu's ex-boyfriend, a certain Jerome, was also in the party and he allegedly became furious when he saw his ex and Manalo having a good time.

"This is a love triangle," Olavario said. "(Jerome) became furious when he saw his girl with another man."

After hours of merrymaking, the victim left the party with Espiritu to walk his former girlfriend home, Olavario said.

But while they were strolling on Onyx Street, suspect Entoy suddenly appeared from behind and struck Manalo behind the head.

The victim fell to the ground unconscious.

"(The assailant) might have just meant to (injure) Alvin but it did not turn out that way," Olavario said.

The suspect quickly fled while the victim was taken to the Ospital ng Maynila. He died on the way, police said.

Besides the love triangle angle, investigators are also looking into reports that Manalo and Entoy had a misunderstanding before the incident, Olavario said.

Police are now hunting down the suspect, he said. ***Philip Tubeza***

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# PNP, NBI chided for bypassing Makati officials

**By Alcuin Papa and Tarra Quismundo**

THE MAKATI City government on Thursday warned the National Bureau of Investigation and the Philippine National Police not to bypass local authorities again when they conduct drug operations in the city.

The Makati government was reacting to reports that the NBI and the PNP's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group conducted operations in commercial and residential areas in the city without the knowledge of local authorities.

But a PNP official questioned Makati's move, saying their operations in the city would be jeopardized if they informed local authorities about them.

Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay warned law enforcement agencies against disobeying City Ordinance 2000-048, an ordinance approved two years ago requiring the NBI and PNP to submit after-operations reports to local authorities.

This ordinance, according to a statement sent by Makati City Hall, seeks to provide the local government a basis for assessing the city's peace and order situation.

Binay said the local government is ready to file a complaint against the NBI and the PNP before the People's Law Enforcement Board (PLEB) if the agencies refuse to heed the city ordinance.

An investigator from the Southern Police District's Drug Enforcement Unit lambasted the move, saying it would compromise their anti-drug operations in the city.

"We are looking at Makati now as the center of distribution and sale of Ecstasy pills," said the investigator who asked not to be named. "If we were to inform Makati officials of our every move, authorities and law enforcers involved in the trade might tip off the dealers," the investigator said.

On April 29, two Ecstasy dealers fell into the hands of the SPD anti-narcotics unit in the city and yielded 35 of the designer pills.

A pill of Ecstasy has a street-value of around P1,200.

# Man killed for his cellular phone

POLICE believed cell phone thieves shot and killed a young man in Makati City early yesterday morning.

Jose Tayoto, 22, of Tripa de Gallera, Riverside, Pasay was instantly killed when he was shot in the back of the head.

According to initial reports, Ramil Manantan, 29, was driving on Gil Puyat Avenue near the Grepalife Building on board his maroon Kia Pride (PVF-471) at around 2 a.m. when he saw the victim flagging him down.

Manantan told police he recognized Tayoto as someone who frequented Manantan's community in Marconi Street, Barangay Palanan, Makati.

The driver said Tayoto got on board the taxi and rode on the passenger's seat. After a few meters, Manantan heard a gunshot, police said.

Manantan sped away in panic, but when he reached the corner of Marconi and Emilia Street, he found that Tayoto was already dead, police said.

A security guard in the area said he saw a black Toyota Corolla chase Manantan's Kia Pride.

Police said the suspects might have tried to steal Tayoto's Nokia 8210, which was recovered inside the Kia Pride.

Manantan is now in their custody of the Makati police for further questioning. ***Alcuin Papa***

# Feast of the Ascension

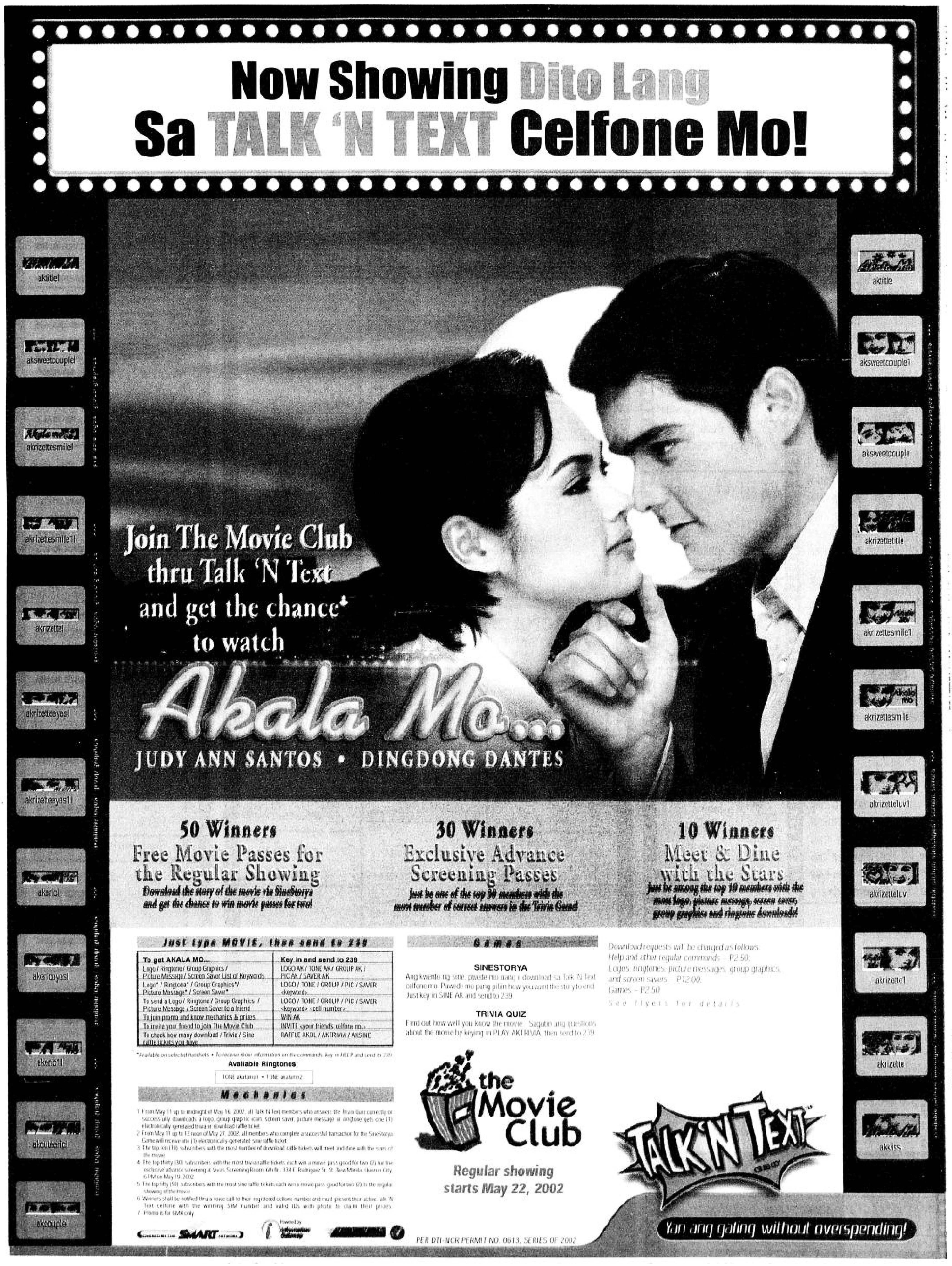
THE FEAST of the Ascension of Jesus Christ tomorrow will be celebrated by a Mass to be offered by His Eminence, Jaime Cardinal Sin, at the Ascension of Our Lord's Church of Greater Lagro, Novaliches Quezon City.

The observance of the Ascension by Catholics occurs 40 days after Easter.

Parish priest, the Reverend Father Charlie Aldema, a Diocesan, said the solemnity of the Ascension is meant to serve as a powerful reminder that Jesus, who lived, died and was raised by God from the dead, will come again in glory at the end of time to fully establish the reign of God which He so proclaimed.

Fr. Aldena said a thanksgiving Mass will also be offered on the 12th anniversary of the Ati-Atihan Neighborhood Association of Greater Lagro during the feast day.

Free medical and dental attention will be given to the needy during the observance.



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5. The top fifty (50) subscribers with the most sine raffle tickets each win a movie pass good for two (2) to the regular showing of the movie.
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6 SPIDERMAN
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8 SPIDERMAN
9 CLOSED
10 CLOSED
11 CLOSED
12 CLOSED

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5 SPIDERMAN
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7 VIDEOKE KING
8 SPIDERMAN
9 7 DAYS TO LIVE
10 SPIDERMAN

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4 SCORPION KING
5 HARDBALL
6 RIPPER
7 VIDEOKE KING
8 SPIDERMAN

### SM CITY ILOILO
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2 CLOSED
3 SPIDERMAN
4 SHOWTIME
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7 CLOSED
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2 SPIDERMAN
3 I AM SAM
4 DEVIL'S MASK
5 RETURN TO NEVERLAND
6 VIDEOKE KING

### SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1 JASON-X
2 SPIDERMAN
3 VIDEOKE KING
4 SPIDERMAN

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2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

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2 JASON-X
3 SPIDERMAN
4 VIDEOKE KING

### SM CITY DAVAO
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1 SPIDERMAN
2 HART'S WAR
3 VIDEOKE KING
4 TIME MACHINE
5 SPIDERMAN
6 BLADE 2

### SM BICUTAN

1
2
3
4

*SOON TO OPEN!*
*4 NEW*
*STATE-OF-THE-ART*
*VISION & SOUND*

### SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1
2
3
4

*SOON TO OPEN!*
*4 NEW*
*STATE-OF-THE-ART*
*VISION & SOUND*

### THE PODIUM
18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City

1
2

*SOON TO OPEN!*
*2 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND*

6389781-85

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*the all-digital-sound*

# AYALA CINEMAS

GLORIETTA 1&4/GREENBELT/ALABANG TOWN CENTER

COLUMBIA PICTURES

SPIDER-MAN

**NOW SHOWING AT ALL AYALA CINEMAS**

MTRCB Rating. G (GENERAL PATRONAGE) ALL AGES ADMITTED

Special Thanks:

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candy
seventeen
JAG
MARVEL

---

# MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

# MOVIE GUIDE

**NOW SHOWING**

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

### Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS) I AM SAM
2 (SDDS) SPIDERMAN
3 (DTS) HARDBALL
4 (GOLD DTS) JASON-X
5 (GOLD DOLBY) SPIDERMAN
6 (GOLD SDDS) SPIDERMAN
7 (GOLD DOLBY) SPIDERMAN
8 VIDEOKE KING
9 K-PAX
10 7 DAYS TO LIVE

### Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 (DTS) ROLLERBALL
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 (DTS) SPIDERMAN
Golden Pearl THX

### Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3274

1 VIDEOKE KING
2 SPIDERMAN
3 BUKANG BIBIG

### starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1 HARDBALL
2 JASON X
3 7 DAYS TO LIVE
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) SPIDERMAN
5 BUKANG BIBIG

### METROPOLIS star
tel 850.4285

1 JASON X
2 BUKANG BIBIG
3 VIDEOKE KING
4 SPIDERMAN
5 SCORPION KING
6 SPIDERMAN
7
8

### PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) TEL. 751-2010 TO 13

1 STAR WARS EPISODE-II

### Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 VIDEOKE KING
2 SCORPION KING

### FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1 RESERVE
2 BUKANG BIBIG
3 RESERVE

### Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1
A VIDEOKE KING

### Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1 SPIDERMAN
2 VIDEOKE KING
3
4

### GOTESCO CINEMA

#### Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY) SPIDERMAN
2 RESERVE
3 RESERVE
4 HARDBALL
5 JASON-X
6 7 DAYS TO LIVE
7 (DTS) K-PAX
8 (SDDS) SPIDERMAN
9 (DOLBY) SPIDERMAN

#### Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2 VIDEOKE KING

#### Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1 VIDEOKE KING
2 SABAYAN SA LABAN
3 HARDBALL
4 (SDDS) SPIDERMAN
5 SPIDERMAN
6 (DOLBY) SPIDERMAN
7 (DTS) JASON X
8 BUKANG BIBIG
9 SCORPION KING

#### Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS) RESERVE
2 BUKANG BIBIG
3 RESERVE
4 JASON X
5 (SDDS) SPIDERMAN
6 RESERVE
7 (DOLBY) SPIDERMAN
8 VIDEOKE KING

#### Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1 VIDEOKE KING
2 JASON X
3 (DTS) SPIDERMAN
4 BUKANG BIBIG
5 (SDDS) SPIDERMAN

### Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1 SABAYAN SA LABAN

### Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1 VIDEOKE KING

### Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson
Lords
Jennet

SABAYAN SA LABAN

### MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 SPIDERMAN
2 VIDEOKE KING
3 JASON X

### Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3

### Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY) SPIDERMAN
2 RESERVE
3 RESERVE
4 VIDEOKE KING
5 SABAYAN SA LABAN

### New Divisoria Mall DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1
2
3
4
5
6

### FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite

1
2

### Berma
tel 879.2029

1 SPIDERMAN
2 VIDEOKE KING

### CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1
2

### CINEMA 2000

#### Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1 BUKANG BIBIG
2 VIDEOKE KING
3 (DTS) SPIDERMAN

#### Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 SPIDERMAN
2 (DTS) VIDEOKE KING
3 (DOLBY) SPIDERMAN
4 I AM SAM

#### Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 VIDEOKE KING
2 (DOLBY) SPIDERMAN
3 (DTS) SPIDERMAN
4 I AM SAM

#### Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 VIDEOKE KING
2 SHOWTIME
3 SOON TO OPEN
4 SOON TO OPEN

#### Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1 VIDEOKE KING
2 SPIDERMAN
3 (DOLBY) SPIDERMAN
4 (DTS) SHOWTIME

### Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) SPIDERMAN
2 BUKANG BIBIG
3 KALARO
4 (DTS) VIDEOKE KING

### Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) SPIDERMAN
2 VIDEOKE KING
3 (DTS) I AM SAM
4 BUKANG BIBIG
5 RIPPER

### Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1 SPIDERMAN
2 VIDEOKE KING
3 BUKANG BIBIG

### Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

1 SPIDERMAN
2 VIDEOKE KING
3 BUKANG BIBIG

### Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1 HART'S WAR
2 SCORPION KING
3 GAWIN SA DILIM

### Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1
2
3

### Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)
2 (DTS) SPIDERMAN

### Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1

### Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1 VIDEOKE KING
2 SPIDERMAN
3 SPIDERMAN

### Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 BUKANG BIBIG
2 SCORPION KING
3 SHOWTIME
4 VIDEOKE KING

### Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY SR) SPIDERMAN
2 EVIL WOMAN
3 (DTS) SPIDERMAN
4 DEVIL'S MASK

***Movies are subject to change without prior notice**

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

CMG INTERNATIONAL
[illegible]
[illegible]
For VIP, Gold, Silver membership
For reservations, call: 751-2010 to 13

PREMIERE CINEMA THX

**NOW SHOWING!**

STAR WARS

EPISODE II

ATTACK OF THE CLONES

---

MOVIEWORLD

# CINEMAS

@ Robinsons Malls

## NOW SHOWING

### Galleria
632- 9115- 16
633- 7641 loc. 279

1 THX SPIDERMAN
2 SPIDERMAN
3 K-PAX
4 I AM SAM
5 JASON-X
6 SPIDERMAN
7 7 DAYS TO LIVE
8 HARDBALL
9 SCORPION KING
10 VIDEOKE KING

### Ermita
536 -7809- 12

1 SPIDERMAN
2 7 DAYS TO LIVE
3 HARDBALL
4 K-PAX
5 VIDEOKE KING
6 SPIDERMAN
7 JASON-X

### Metro East - Marcos hway
682- 8193 / 8280

1 K-PAX
2 SPIDERMAN
3 SCORPION KING
4 I AM SAM / 7 DAYS TO LIVE
5 SPIDERMAN
6 VIDEOKE KING
7 JASON-X
8 HARDBALL

### Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30

1 SPIDERMAN
2 SPIDERMAN
3 I AM SAM / 7 DAYS TO LIVE
4 SCORPION KING
5 K-PAX
6 VIDEOKE KING
7 HARD BALL
8 JASON-X

### Imus
471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1 SPIDERMAN
2 KAPIRASONG GUBAT / 7 DAYS TO LIVE
3 JASON-X
4 K-PAX
5 VIDEOKE KING
6 HARDBALL

### Bacolod
441- 0453 / 0459

1 SPIDERMAN
2 HART'S WAR
3 BLADE 2
4 BLOW DRY
5 VIDEOKE KING
6 SCORPION KING / ICE AGE

### Iloilo
336- 8077 - 78

1 SPIDERMAN
2 SHOWTIME
3 SPIDERMAN
4 RIPPER
5 GOOD ADVICE
6 VIDEOKE KING

### Star Mills- Sn Fernando, Pamp.
875- 1927
961-5318 / 5270

1 I AM SAM
2 VIDEOKE KING
3 SPIDERMAN
4 SCORPION KING
5 DEVIL'S MASK
6 SPIDERMAN

malabon citisquare-
soon to open.

Late Night Screening

**SPIDERMAN**
on
MAY 10 & 11, 2002
Friday & Saturday - 11:00 p.m. @
Robinsons Movieworld
Galleria

## how-2-reach-us:

email: htc@netasia-mnl.net
http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com
call-a-movie 536- 7812

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

# 14 minors rounded up in sex den raids

FOURTEEN minors working as guest relations officers in Caloocan bars and nightclubs are now in the custody of city police who conducted raids on establishments reportedly operating without valid licenses and exhibiting lewd shows.

The 14 minors, the youngest of whom is 11, were found to be working without proper health and sanitation certificates, police said.

On Thursday night, authorities raided the Maginoo Gay Bar and Gold Hunter KTV Disco and Restaurant, both located at the Bonifacio Monument Circle, and Meldiose KTV Disco and Restaurant on 10th Avenue, Caloocan City. Local police and officials of the city health department and business licensing and permits division conducted the raids after they received reports that the establishments served as prostitution fronts.

Police later found out that the three bars are operating without the necessary permits.

***Tina Santos***

# Driver killed in robbery

THREE youthful robbers killed passenger jeepney driver Feliciano Berzabal, when he refused to hand over his earnings for the day, according to the Marikina City police.

The robbers slashed the neck of Berzabal, a resident of Francisville, Antipolo City, police said.

The robbers are in their late teens or early 20s, witnesses told police.

PO3 Ricardo Mendoza of the Marikina police believed Berzabal was taken by surprise when the suspects, who passed themselves off as passengers, threatened him shortly after 10 p.m. along A. Tuazon Street, Barangay San Roque.

After Berzabal was killed, one of the suspects took his cash box containing his earnings.

***Nelson Flores***

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
NOW SHOWING
1 SPIDERMAN 10:00, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30 GP
2 SPIDERMAN 11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30 GP
All Reserved Seating: P120.00
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
MUSIC MUSEUM
MUSIC MUSEUM May 11, 2002 REIGNE ON TOUR (Regine Velasquez) 9:00 pm / May 17, 2002 SIDE A "A Timeless Rendezvous" 9:00 pm
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS CALL: 721-6726 OR 721-06.15

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reel summer get-away PROMO:
Buy two (2) Movie Tickets @
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LE SOLEIL DE BORACAY /
MONTE VISTA HotSprings & Conference Resort
MAKILING HIGHLANDS RESORT
CAYLABNE BAY RESORT
ISLAND COVE RESORT & LEISURE PARK.
Promo period is from May 1, 2002 to May 31, 2002
CINEMAS
SEE POSTERS FOR DETAILS.

AYALA MALLS ENTERTAINMENT
AYALA CINEMAS NOW SHOWING
YOUR 24 HOUR LINK TO ALL AYALA CINEMAS • 729-7777
All Digital Sound

| G1 (GLORIETTA 1) | G4 (GLORIETTA 4) | | GB1 (GREENBELT 1) | ATC (ALABANG TOWN CENTER) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 VIDEOKE KING | 1 SPIDERMAN | 4 JASON-X | 1 K-PAX | 1 SPIDERMAN |
| 2 SPIDERMAN | 2 SPIDERMAN | 5 K-PAX | 2 SPIDERMAN | 2 SPIDERMAN |
| 3 HARDBALL | 3 SPIDERMAN 1:10, 3:40, 6:10, 8:40,11:10 GUARANTEED SEATS | 6 SPIDERMAN | 3 SPIDERMAN | 3 HARDBALL |
| 4 SPIDERMAN | | 7 HARDBALL | 4 Onstage MARTIN NIEVERA BACK ONSTAGE May 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25, 31 & June 1 | 4 SPIDERMAN |
| | | | | 5 K-PAX |

The Ayala Events
THIS WEEK'S EVENTS
MAKATI ALABANG CEBU

Mother's Day Events
MAKATI
ALABANG
CEBU
Ayala Malls. Because you deserve more.

# THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

| ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101 | |
|---|---|
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1 | VIDEOKE KING |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2 | 7 DAYS TO LIVE |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS) | JASON X |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS) | SPIDERMAN |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS) | SPIDERMAN |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY) | HARDBALL |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY) | K-PAX |
| FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY) | KAPIRASONG GUBAT |
| FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY) | SPIDERMAN |
| FIESTA CARNIVAL | |
| NEW FRONTIER | |
| **MANILA** | |
| EASTERN | |
| MAXIM | CLOSED |
| MIRAMAR | ESKANDALOSA / TEQUILA BODY SHOT |
| ODEON | JASON-X |
| ODEON-2 | SCORPION KING |
| ROBEN | KAPIRASONG GUBAT |
| TANDEM-1 | ITLOG |
| TANDEM-2 | IKA-7 GLORYA |
| TIMES | GLASS HOUSE / DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE |
| **QUEZON CITY** | |
| ACT-1 | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| ACT-2 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| ACT-3 | CLOSED |
| ACT-4 | CLOSED |
| CORONET-2 | ORIGINAL SIN |
| QUEZON-1 | BUKANG BIBIG |
| REMAR | VIDEOKE KING |
| REMAR-2 | BUKANG BIBIG |
| **NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA** | |
| A : | VIDEOKE KING |
| B : | KAPIRASONG GUBAT |
| C : | |
| **MANDALUYONG CITY** | |
| SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL | 635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70 |
| CINEMA-1 | K-PAX |
| CINEMA-2 | SPIDERMAN |
| **CAINTA RIZAL** | |
| STA. LUCIA EAST | (681-5401 TO 19) |
| CINEMA-1 | I AM SAM |
| CINEMA-2 | BUKANG BIBIG |
| CINEMA-3 | VIDEOKE KING |
| CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | 7 DAYS TO LIVE |
| CINEMA-5 (DTS) | HARDBALL |
| CINEMA-6 | BENEATH LOCHNESS |
| CINEMA-7 | KAPIRASONG GUBAT |
| CINEMA-8 | SCORPION KING |
| CINEMA-9 (DTS) | SPIDERMAN |
| CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | SPIDERMAN |
| CINEMA-11 (SDDS) | SPIDERMAN |
| CINEMA-12 | K-PAX |
| CINEMA-14 | JASON X |
| CINEMA-15 | VIDEOKE KING |
| **LORES** | |
| CINEMA-2 | CLOSED |
| CINEMA-3 | CLOSED |
| **POWER PLANT CINEMA** | |
| CINEMA-1 | K-PAX |
| CINEMA-2 | SPIDERMAN |
| CINEMA-3 | HARDBALL |
| CINEMA-4 | SPIDERMAN |
| CINEMA-5 | JASON X |
| CINEMA-6 | SPIDERMAN |
| **UNIWIDE METROMALL** | |
| (LAS PINAS) | |
| CINEMA-1 | |
| CINEMA-2 | |
| CINEMA-4 | |
| **UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL** | |
| (PARANAQUE) | |
| CINEMA-1 | ALIPIN NG TUKSO |
| CINEMA-2 | THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE |
| CINEMA-4 | ALAMID |

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41

| K-PAX - P13 | SPIDERMAN - GP | HARDBALL - P13 |
|---|---|---|
| 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00 | 10:40, 1:20, 4:00, 6:40, 10:00 | 10:40, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50 |
| **SPIDERMAN - GP** | **JASON X - P13** | **SPIDERMAN - GP** |
| 12:40, 3:20, 6:00, 8:40, 11:20 | 11:15, 1:20, 3:25, 5:30, 7:35, 9:40 | 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00 |

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

No. 1 sa Takilya!
Wide-Screen Entertainment for the Entire Family!
2nd MEGA-BLOCKBUSTER WEEK!
MTRCB RATING G General Patronage ALL AGES ADMITTED

SPIDER-MAN
MARVEL
sony.com/Spider-Man

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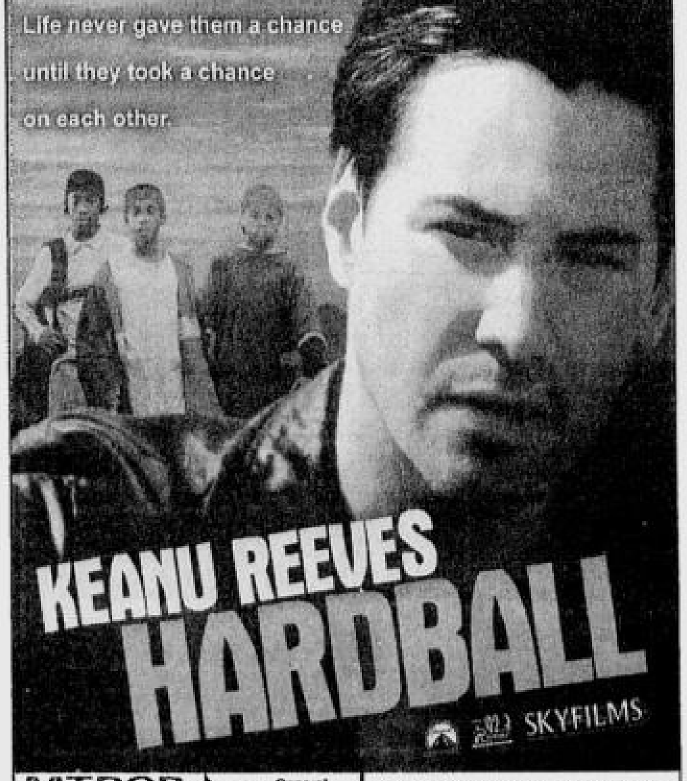
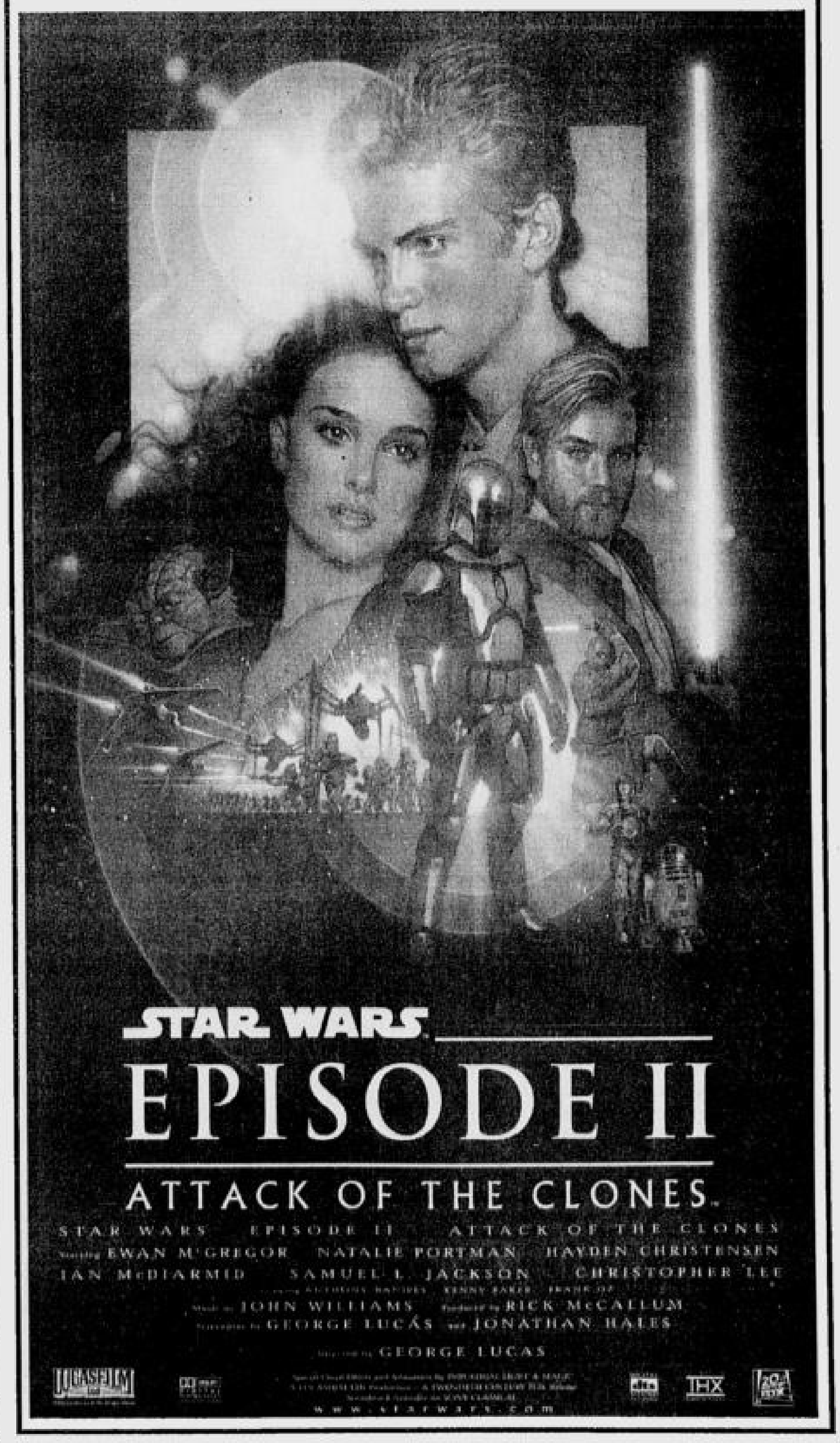

Life never gave them a chance
until they took a chance
on each other.
KEANU REEVES
HARDBALL
SKYFILMS

MTRCB RATING G General Patronage ALL AGES ADMITTED.

THE SAGA CONTINUES MAY 16 !
MTRCB RATING G General Patronage ALL AGES ADMITTED


STAR WARS
EPISODE II
ATTACK OF THE CLONES
STAR WARS EPISODE II ATTACK OF THE CLONES
starring EWAN McGREGOR NATALIE PORTMAN HAYDEN CHRISTENSEN
IAN McDIARMID SAMUEL L. JACKSON CHRISTOPHER LEE
Music by JOHN WILLIAMS Produced by RICK McCALLUM
Screenplay by GEORGE LUCAS and JONATHAN HALES
Directed by GEORGE LUCAS
LUCASFILM
THX
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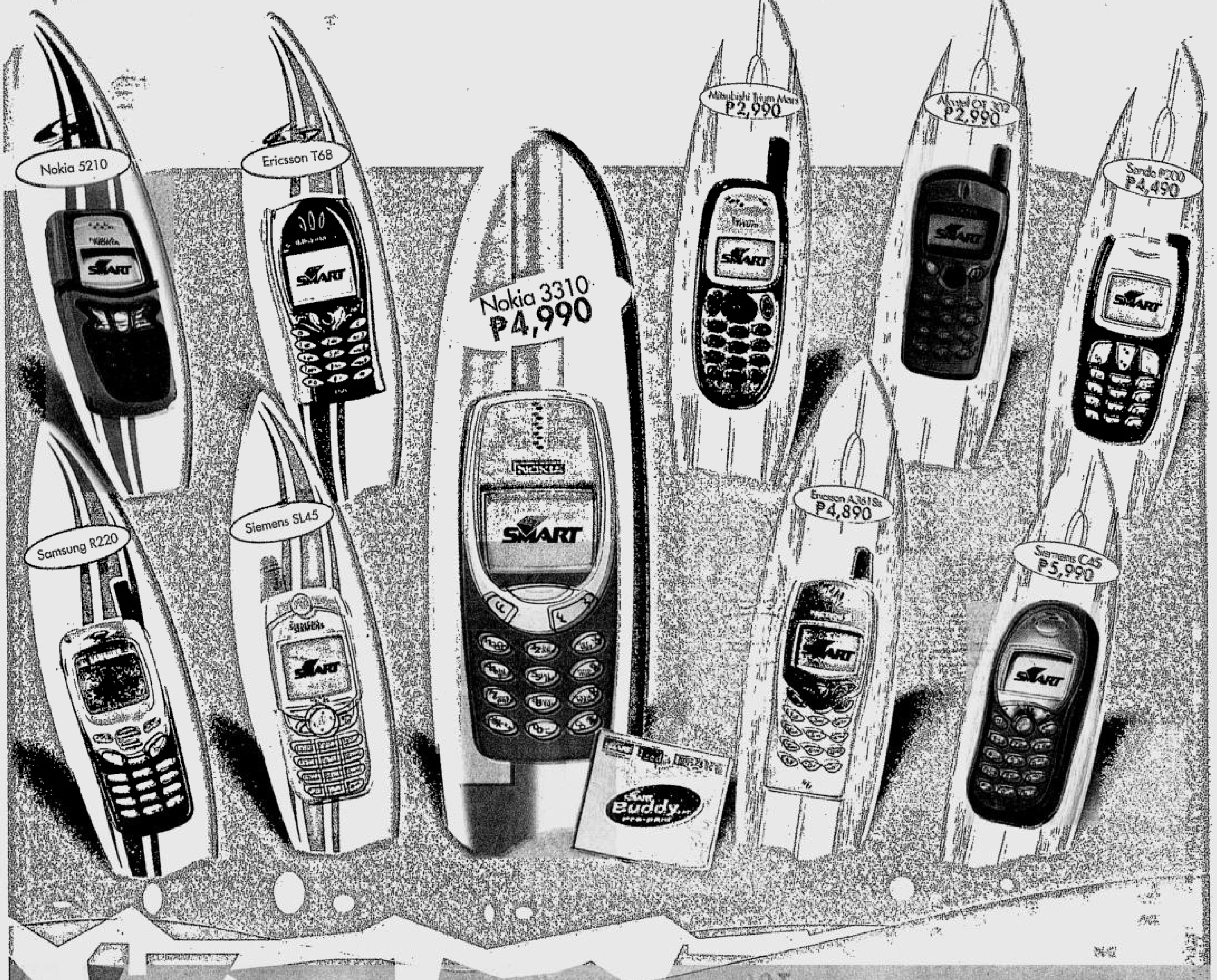

*On SMART's Network: SMART Gold, SMART ACeS, SMART Buddy, Talk N' Text

• Get a cool SMART celfone thru an easy 3-month credit card installment scheme! • Get a chance to win up to ₱2 million in SMART's R U Loaded? Promo! • Get a chance to drive home the SUV of your dreams with the SMART Nokia 3310 Summer Perks! • Exchange your non-SMART SIM Card for SMART's most powerful SIM Card ever–SMART zed plus 64K SIM! • Plus more surprises await you at the Shockwave sites!

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- Get **SMART BUDDY** celfones for as low as **₱2,990!**
- Subscribe to **SMART GOLD** plans and get celfones at low prices or even for **FREE!**

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|---|---|---|
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| GOLD Standard (₱600) | Ericsson A3618s | |
| GOLD Choice (₱1335) | Nokia 6210 | |
| GOLD Select (₱1995) | Nokia 8250 | |
| GOLD Premium (₱2665) | Siemens SL45 | |

For new plan subscriptions please bring the following: Valid ID, Proof of billing address and financial documents.

**Switch from non-SMART post-paid plans or Pricebuster to SMART Amazing GOLD Plans**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| GOLD Rave (₱500) | Ericsson A3618s | FREE |
| GOLD Standard (₱600) | Nokia 3310 | |
| GOLD Choice (₱1335) | Nokia 8210 | |
| GOLD Select (₱1995) | Nokia 8310 | |
| GOLD Premium (₱2665) | Nokia 8855 or Ericsson T68 | |

• To switch to Plan Rave, Standard or Choice, non-SMART post-paid and Pricebuster subscribers must bring 2 months billing statement with average of at least ₱800.
• To switch to Plan Select or Premium, non-SMART post-paid and Pricebuster subscribers must bring 2 months billing statement with average of at least ₱1,800.

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- Get **FREE ₱300** air time for every **SMART Money** enrolment!
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  Per DTI-NCR Permit # 1476, Series of 2002
- Purchase a **SMART BUDDY** celfone on a 3-month installment scheme for as low as 1.8% monthly interest! Just use your **Citibank, Equitable, Metrobank, Standard Chartered, or Diners Club International** credit card!
  Note: Credit card transactions are subject to bank approval.
- Smart Summer Scorchers!

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Purchase a SMART Nokia 3310 celfone and get a chance to win an SUV of your choice. Other prizes include a showcase of choice and call and text credits.

see print ad for details
Per DTI-NCR Permit # 0551, Series of 2002

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see print ad for details
Per DTI-NCR Permit # 0519, Series of 2002

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METRO MANILA:
**Alabang Town Center** (G/F Rotunda near National Bookstore, G/F New Wing in front of [illegible], 2/F [illegible] TSI)
**Festival Mall**, Alabang ([illegible])
**SM Fairview** (UG/F in front of SM ACI)
**SM Megamall** ([illegible])
**SM North EDSA** ([illegible])
**SM Manila** ([illegible])
**SM Sucat** (G/F bet. Jollibee & Tokyo Tokyo)
**SM Southmall** ([illegible])
**SM Centerpoint** ([illegible])
**Robinsons Galleria** (Level 1, EDSA Wing)
**Robinsons Place Manila** (Level 1 bet. Red Ribbon and Delifrance)

LUZON:
**Robinsons Place, Imus** ([illegible])
**SM Pampanga** ([illegible])
**SM Bacoor** ([illegible])

VISAYAS:
**SM Cebu** (UG/F near Supermarket)
**SM Iloilo** ([illegible])

MINDANAO:
**SM Davao** ([illegible])

SM SUPERMALLS
NOKIA
SIEMENS mobile
Sony Ericsson
SAMSUNG
Trium
MOTOROLA

SMART
Simply Amazing!

[illegible]

Per DTI-NCR Permit Nos. [illegible], Series of 2002

**Thai firm joins RP sugar mill** B6

**Economic optimism, closer ties with China dominate ADB meet** B7

# BUSINESS

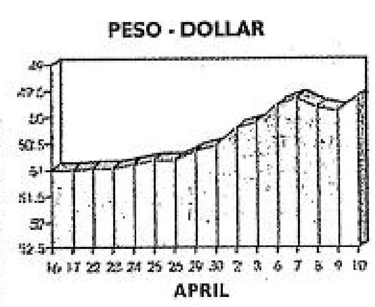
*Editor* **Raul O. Marcelo** · *Assistant Editor* **Corrie S. Narisma**

# Foreign banks swamp RP with bond offers

## INDICATORS

### CURRENCIES

**PESO - DOLLAR**



GRAPHS BY RONNIE CABUANG

**PESO-DOLLAR RATE**

**₱ 49.620 $**
As of 5 p.m., May 10, 2002

**¥ 128.04 = $ 1**
As of 5 p.m., May 10, 2002

**GOLD: $310.20/ 310.70**
per ounce Hong Kong, May 10, 2002

**Stocks fall in listless trading** B2

**By Clarissa S. Batino**

SWAMPED with underwriting offers, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas is rethinking an earlier plan to issue bonds and may instead raise the $500 million to $750 million in foreign funds through a loan syndication or a private placement.

"We are getting a lot of offers and we asked the banks to submit proposals for a loan or a bond. We will take the most attractive, the best deal," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said yesterday.

The central bank chief said a private placement or loan syndication should also have a tenor of five years and should raise for the BSP at least $500 million.

"It would have almost the same terms whether it is a loan or a bond. We just want to get a better price," Buenaventura said.

The BSP chief said two weeks ago that the most attractive proposals laid out to them involved mostly a five-year bond issue limited to Asian and European investors.

"We will raise no less than $500 million and if the price is right, we would go for as much as $750 million to pay the expensive borrowings in previous years," Buenaventura said.

The central bank said it was likely to prepay $750 million in debts raised almost a year ago and maturing in 2004. This borrowing was more expensive compared with those maturing in 2003, the BSP chief said.

The BSP borrowed $750 million in March 2001 from 19 lenders and another $130 million through a private placement in May 2001. Both had a three-year tenor and were used to settle maturing loans.

Last November, the BSP also secured a $500-million loan from four-year Euro bond market and another $300 million from the same facility early this year.

"We will do the bond issue before the end of the second quarter. We have received proposals from just about every major player," he noted.

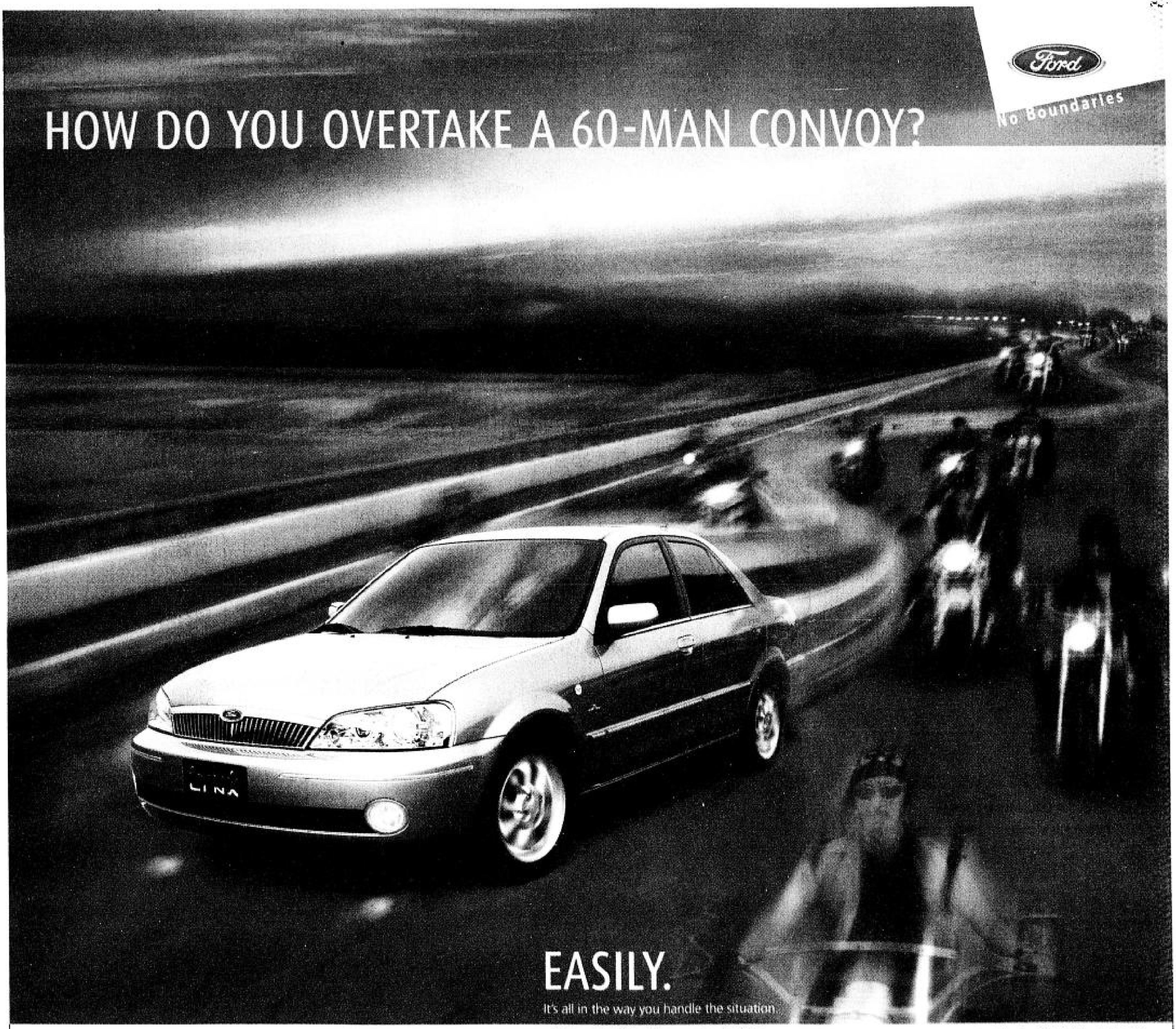
Among the investment banks that have submitted a proposal to the BSP were JP Morgan Chase, Morgan Stanley, Standard Chartered Bank, HSBC, Deutsche Bank, Credit Suisse First Boston and Salomon Smith Barney.

The BSP chief said the policy-making Monetary Board had instructed a bond committee led by BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. to start discussing the planned borrowing with the banks.

He said the central bank would like to take advantage of relatively low prices given expectations that interest rates may start going up toward the second half of the year.

Analysts were projecting that local and foreign interest rates would move up toward the second half of the year on the likely scenario that the United States would increase its short-term rates from 1.75 percent.

The BSP had used the proceeds of the eurobond deal last year to finance part of the deficit in the balance of payments to prevent the gross international reserves from falling below the psychological support of $14 billion. The dollar reserves stood at $17.083 billion as of April.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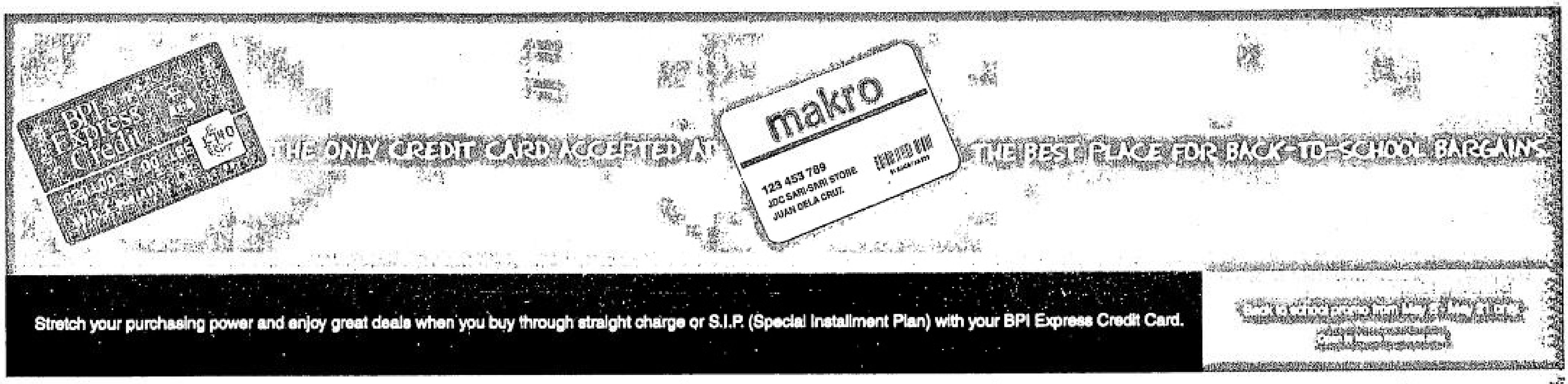

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## BUILDING UP BARREL INVENTORY

# Tanduay raising output to meet projected increase in demand

**By Doris C. Dumlao**

LEADING rum maker Tanduay Holdings Inc. is spending about $22.5 million (over P1 billion) this year to beef up its inventory of oak barrels which are used to age alcohol products. This is in anticipation of stronger sales in light of the projected bigger economic growth in the second semester.

Tanduay chief finance officer Nestor Mendones told reporters at the sidelines of the company's annual stockholders meeting Thursday that net profits during the first quarter stood "a little bit lower" than a year ago due to a 10-percent contraction in volume.

"The people did not have much to spend, especially those in the south. The situation has not calmed down yet," he explained referring to the peace and order problems in Mindanao.

But Mendones said volumes would likely improve in the second semester. The company is projecting P500 million in profit for the full year, about 19 percent higher than the P421 million registered in 2001.

Since Tanduay's three plants are still operating at below capacity, Mendones said there was no need to put up new facilities. Capital outlays this year will be devoted to the acquisition of additional oak barrels.

He said the company was planning to increase its barrel inventory to about 100,000 from the existing 88,748. Each barrel will cost the company $2,000, he said.

Mendones said Tanduay's plants were operating at an average of 50-60 percent of capacity.

"There's plenty of room for additional volume," he said, noting that these plants currently produce a total of 100,000 cases of alcohol products on a daily basis.

In a related development, food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. reportedly expressed serious interest to acquire Tanduay, which controls 95 percent of the country's rum market, for a possible merger with its hard liquor unit La Tondeña Distillers Inc. SMC president Ramon Ang recently said LTDI was willing to spend up to $500 million for new acquisitions.

However, Mendones said the company was not aware of any discussion with SMC for the sale of Tanduay.

Tanduay, the hard liquor unit of tobacco magnate Lucio Tan, who also owns Asia Brewery Inc., had repeatedly said it was not for sale.

## DISCLOSURES

**LA TONDEÑA Distillers Inc.** bought 2.47 million of its shares at P32.50 to P34.50 per share.

* * *

**LORENZO Shipping Corp.** will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 29, 9 a.m. at the Dusit Hotel, Makati City. Only stockholders of record as of April 26 are entitled to vote at the meeting.

* * *

**DIVERSIFIED Financial Network Inc.** will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 29, 2 p.m. at the 3/F HatchAsia GlobalCity Center, Taguig. Only stockholders of record as of April 15 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

**FILIPINO Fund Inc.** moved its annual stockholders' meeting from May 14 to July 26 with record date on May 31.

* * *

**EDSA Properties Holdings Inc.** will hold an investors' briefing on May 14, 6 p.m. at the Makati A function room of Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.** were Lucio Tan, Mariano Tanenglian, Harry Tan, Macario Te, Wilson Young, Jaime Bautista and Sylvia Lim. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

# Petron declares cash dividend

**By Ronnel W. Domingo**

DOMESTIC oil refiner Petron Corp. yesterday said it had declared cash dividends of 15 centavos per share to stockholders of record as of June 6 this year.

Virginia A. Ruivivar, Petron corporate communications manager, said the firm's board of directors approved the move in a meeting last Tuesday.

Petron reported in March that it had posted a net profit of P1.22 billion for 2001 due to "sustained cost-cutting measures and tight risk management."

"The last time Petron declared dividends was in 1999 at 20 centavos per share," Ruivivar said in a telephone interview.

She said the oil firm was not able to declare dividends in 2000 and 2001 as it registered losses in the said period.

The oil giant posted a net income of P2.36 billion in 1999, but it decided against declaring dividends after registering a decline in its cash flow during the second semester which continued in the whole of 2000.

Petron reported a net loss of P1.1 billion in 2000, but the amount ballooned to P2 billion after a restatement of its financial performance in the same year.

"This is the fifth time that Petron is giving out a dividend since it listed in the stock exchange in 1994," Ruivivar told the INQUIRER.

In a statement released on Tuesday, Petron reported a net income of P652 million in the first quarter, 41 percent up from year-ago figure of P463 million.

Petron attributed the increase in first quarter income to its efforts to improve operational inefficiency.

The company's domestic sales from January to March declined by 9.8 percent from 12.3 million barrels last year to 11.1 million barrels this year.

"Despite (this), we continue to maintain our cost discipline and improve on operational efficiency," Ruivivar said.

"We are optimistic that our volumes will improve as economic growth picks up in the coming months," she said.

Ruivivar said in March that Petron maintained market leadership as of end 2001 with an overall share of 38.3 percent despite weak local demand and stronger challenges from its competitors.

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SCHEDULE OF CONFERENCE
ICT Growth and Development in South East Asia
MAY 9 (THURSDAY)
1:30- 2:15pm A Global View of the ICT Industry by: Peter Wallace
2:15- 3pm The Future of Investment in South East Asia by: Paul Brown Kenyon
3:15- 4pm Growth Areas/Business Opportunities Available in the Philippines
4- 4:45pm Analysis of ICT Developments in the Philippines

SCHEDULE OF FREE SEMINARS
MAY 9 (THURSDAY)
1 pm- 2pm New Paradigm in IP Analysis / by: Acterna Asia Pacific Pty Ltd
2 pm- 3pm An Exceptionally Flexible and Cost-Effective Optical Communications System by: Brand-Rex Bistro
2pm - 3pm Hanap-Buhay.com - OnLine Recruitment / Job Search by: Intelech Resources
3- 3:30pm Primer to Land XML by: Autodesk / GIS Ansol / CIM Tech
3pm - 4pm Modulys by: Socomec Sicon
3pm - 4pm Plasma Display Panel by: LG Collins
3:30- 4pm Mobile Backup by: Computer Associates
4- 5pm Powerpoint Presentation: Northgate Cyberzone by: Northgate Cyberzone
5- 6pm How to Project your Best Image by Micro Data Systems

MAY 10 (FRIDAY)
10:30 - 11:30am Bullet-proofing Your Network by: American Power Conversion
11am- 12nn Radiant Asset Monitoring System: Practical GPS for Professional Use by: Asian Navigation & Tracking Systems, Inc.
11:30 - 12:30pm Why should I care about E-Learnings? by: Cyberelaeu.Com Phils
1pm- 2pm Dotenable Products by: Dotenable.Com
1 - 1:30pm Teleprompters - Prompting for Professionals by: Adtel, Inc / Telescript
1:30- 2:00pm GlobeCaster All-in-One Solutions-Studio-in-a-Box by: Adtel, Inc / Global Streams
2pm-3pm Global Leader in Electrical Energy Storage Solutions by: Exide Technologies
2pm- 3pm Real Time Patching (Structure Cabling) by: Molex
3pm-4pm Barco Projection Systems for Different Work Applications by: Audio Visual Driver
3pm- 3:30pm Voltage & Current Protection for Telecommunication Networks & Equipment by: Porta Systems
3pm- 4pm 3 COM Wireless & Security by: 3 COM
3:30- 4:00pm e-Business Security Solutions by: Computer Associates
4- 4:30pm Open Packet Telephony by: Adtel, Inc. / Cisco Systems
4pm-5pm Secure Transactions using Smart Cards by: Nortsage / Mondex
4pm- 6pm American Tech. Inc.
5pm-6pm Worldcom Products and Services by MCIWORLDCOM PHILS

MAY 11 (SATURDAY)
10:30-11:30am All about Batteries by Outlast Battery
1pm- 2pm Providing You Total Business Control by: Contol Communications Inc.
2 pm- 3pm State of Wireless in the Philippines by: Digital Filipino
4pm- 5pm AGM and GEL Technology by: Metchem Industrial, Inc.
5 pm- 6pm Electro Voice: The Sound System of Choice by: Micro Data Systems

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# Stocks fall in listless trading

STOCKS fell back yesterday, pressured by a retracement on Wall Street and some profit-taking in banks, traders said.

The main index closed down 6.03 points, or 0.44 percent, at 1,350.77 points. On the week, the index was down 1.8 percent.

Turnover rose to P863.31 million from P615.18 million on Thursday.

The reversal of fortunes on Wall Street on Thursday, with the Dow Jones index retracing more than one percent after a 3-percent gain on Wednesday, weighed on early trade, traders said.

A slide in the banks' sector, down 9.25 points or 1.66 percent, to 548.28 points, also dragged on the broad market.

"Partly it was profit-taking," Eagle Equities president Joey Roxas said, noting that the country's second largest bank, Bank of the Philippine Islands shed a peso to P68.50.

"Maybe it's because BPI seems so expensive, it's twice the book value of most of the others (in the sector)," he said.

Roxas also noted that some market funds might have been shifted into subscriptions for the upcoming initial public offering (IPO) of Banco de Oro.

Properties, which rose more than 2 percent on Wednesday, also turned back with the subsector index off 4.68 points, or 0.76 percent, at 612.91 points. ***Reuters***

## PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, May 10, 2002)

| STOCKS | OPEN | HIGH | LOW | CLOSE | VOLUME |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES | | | | | |
| BANKS | | | | | |
| Bank of the Phil. Islands | 69.5 | 69.5 | 68.5 | 68.5 | 815,600 |
| Citystate Savings Bank | 14 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 8,000 |
| Equitable PCI Bank Inc. | 37 | 37.5 | 36.5 | 36.5 | 93,200 |
| First E-Bank Corp. | 1.8 | 2.14 | 1.8 | 2.06 | 1,697,000 |
| Metropolitan Bank & Trust | 40 | 40 | 39 | 40 | 98,500 |
| Phil. Bank of Comm. | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | 1,000 |
| Philippine National Bank | 48 | 48 | 44 | 44 | 42,700 |
| Phil. Savings Bank | 27.5 | 28 | 27.5 | 28 | 7,600 |
| Rizal Comm. Banking Corp. | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 9,400 |
| Security Bank Corp. | 17 | 17 | 16.5 | 16.5 | 106,100 |
| Union Bank of the Phil. | 22.25 | 22.5 | 22.25 | 22.5 | 75,300 |
| FINANCIAL SERVICE | | | | | |
| Bankard Inc. | 1.36 | 1.36 | 1.34 | 1.36 | 106,000 |
| Manulife Financial Corp. | 1450 | 1450 | 1450 | 1450 | 1,080 |
| PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc. | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 60,000 |
| Sun Life Financial Serv. | 1070 | 1070 | 1070 | 1070 | 40 |
| COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL | | | | | |
| COMMUNICATION | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. | 30.5 | 31 | 30.5 | 31 | 28,400 |
| Digital Telecom Phils. Inc. | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 530,000 |
| Globe Telecom Inc. | 650 | 660 | 650 | 655 | 22,300 |
| Island Info and Tech Inc. | 0.039 | 0.039 | 0.039 | 0.039 | 2,400,000 |
| Piltel | 0.43 | 0.45 | 0.43 | 0.44 | 4,930,000 |
| Phil. Long Dis Tel Co. | 457.5 | 467.5 | 455 | 460 | 120,420 |
| Ivantage Corp. | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 100,000 |
| Philweb.Com Inc. | 0.018 | 0.018 | 0.017 | 0.017 | 53,200,000 |
| POWER & ENERGY | | | | | |
| Manila Electric Co. A | 25 | 25.5 | 25 | 25 | 32,500 |
| Manila Electric Co. B | 39 | 39 | 39 | 39 | 729,300 |
| Petron Corp. | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.66 | 1.68 | 4,919,000 |
| Salcon Power Corp. | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 50,000 |
| Trans-Asia Oil and Energy | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 430,000 |
| TRANSPORTATION SERVICES | | | | | |
| Int'l Container Term'l Sv | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.85 | 2.85 | 1,197,000 |
| Keppel Phils. Marine Inc. | 0.36 | 0.42 | 0.36 | 0.42 | 990,000 |
| William, Gothong & Aboitiz | 1.92 | 1.92 | 1.92 | 1.92 | 25,000 |
| CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS | | | | | |
| Republic Glass Hldg. Corp. | 1.44 | 1.44 | 1.44 | 1.44 | 10,000 |
| FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO | | | | | |
| Alaska Milk Corp. | 2.08 | 2.08 | 2.08 | 2.08 | 30,000 |
| Cosmos Bottling Corp. | 5.5 | 5.6 | 5.5 | 5.6 | 21,000 |
| Jollibee Foods Corp. | 13.75 | 14 | 13.75 | 3.75 | 696,300 |
| La Tondeña Distillers Inc. | 34 | 35.5 | 34 | 35.5 | 13,795,800 |
| RFM Corp. | 1.32 | 1.34 | 1.32 | 1.32 | 278,000 |
| San Miguel Corp. A | 49 | 49.5 | 48.5 | 49.5 | 50,600 |
| San Miguel Corp. B | 57 | 57.5 | 56.5 | 57.5 | 64,800 |
| HOLDING FIRMS | | | | | |
| Ayala Corp. | 5.9 | 6 | 5.9 | 5.9 | 11,492,000 |
| Aboitiz Equity Ventures | 2.18 | 2.2 | 2.18 | 2.2 | 363,000 |
| Ajo.Net Holdings Inc. | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 6,080,000 |
| A. Soriano Corp. | 0.56 | 0.56 | 0.56 | 0.56 | 20,000 |
| APC Group Inc. | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.09 | 0.09 | 2,000,000 |
| Alcorn Gold Res. Corp. | 0.009 | 0.009 | 0.009 | 0.009 | 1,000,000 |
| Anglo Phil. Holdings Corp. | 0.29 | 0.29 | 0.29 | 0.29 | 100,000 |
| ATN Holdings Inc. | 3.05 | 3.35 | 3.05 | 3.35 | 117,000 |
| ATN Holdings Inc. B | 3.25 | 3.25 | 3.25 | 3.25 | 10,000 |
| Balabac Resources & Hldgs. | 0.14 | 0.14 | 0.105 | 0.105 | 200,000 |
| Benpres Holdings Corp. | 0.59 | 0.59 | 0.59 | 0.59 | 560,000 |
| Southeast Asian Cement | 0.0525 | 0.0525 | 0.0525 | 0.0525 | 200,000 |
| DMCI Holdings Inc. | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 120,000 |
| Ebecom Holdings Inc. | 7.1 | 7.2 | 7.1 | 7.2 | 10,000 |
| Filinvest Dev. Corp. | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.48 | 1.5 | 1,359,000 |
| First Phil Hldgs. Corp. | 26.5 | 27 | 26.5 | 26.5 | 213,000 |
| Ionics Inc. | 6.9 | 6.9 | 6.9 | 6.9 | 43,000 |
| Megaworld Corp. | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.79 | 0.8 | 4,700,000 |
| Metro Pacific Corp. | 0.25 | 0.26 | 0.25 | 0.26 | 860,000 |
| Music Corp. | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 100,000 |
| Roxas Holdings Inc. | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 50,000 |
| Solid Group Inc. | 0.33 | 0.33 | 0.33 | 0.33 | 140,000 |
| Tanduay Holdings Inc. | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 10,000 |
| Uniwide Holdings Inc. | 0.12 | 0.12 | 0.11 | 0.11 | 1,650,000 |
| Waterfront Phils. Inc. | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 140,000 |
| MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING | | | | | |
| Active Alliance Inc. | 0.38 | 0.38 | 0.38 | 0.38 | 10,000 |
| Corro-Coat Inc. | 1.48 | 1.48 | 1.48 | 1.48 | 5,000 |
| HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE | | | | | |
| Belle Corp. | 0.44 | 0.44 | 0.44 | 0.44 | 950,000 |
| Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc. | 0.25 | 0.26 | 0.25 | 0.26 | 370,000 |
| Philippine Racing Club | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 56,000 |
| BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr) | 31 | 31.5 | 31 | 31.5 | 197,700 |
| DMCI Holdings Inc.-Pref. | 775 | 775 | 775 | 775 | 100 |
| Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr) | 790 | 800 | 780 | 780 | 12,480 |
| Macroasia Corp. Warrants | 0.08 | 0.08 | 0.08 | 0.08 | 100,000 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series T | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 900 |
| PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 1,100 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series V | 10.25 | 10.5 | 10.25 | 10.5 | 800 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series W | 10.25 | 10.5 | 10.25 | 10.5 | 2,100 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series X | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 900 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 300 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 700 |
| PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa | 10.25 | 10.5 | 10.25 | 10.5 | 2,400 |
| Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants | 0.0044 | 0.0044 | 0.0044 | 0.0044 | 1,000,000 |
| PROPERTY | | | | | |
| Ayala Land Inc. | 7.1 | 7.2 | 7.1 | 7.2 | 8,145,000 |
| Cebu Holdings Inc. | 0.37 | 0.37 | 0.37 | 0.37 | 100,000 |
| C & P Homes Inc. | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 450,000 |
| Cyber Bay Corp. | 0.39 | 0.39 | 0.37 | 0.38 | 3,060,000 |
| Empire East Land Inc. | 0.26 | 0.27 | 0.26 | 0.26 | 910,000 |
| Filinvest Land Inc. | 2.85 | 2.85 | 2.85 | 2.85 | 1,556,000 |
| Fil-Estate Land Inc. | 0.33 | 0.33 | 0.33 | 0.33 | 260,000 |
| Phil Realty and Holdings | 0.0525 | 0.0525 | 0.0525 | 0.0525 | 100,000 |
| SM Development Corp. | 1.04 | 1.04 | 1.04 | 1.04 | 50,000 |
| SM Prime Holdings Inc. | 6.2 | 6.2 | 6.1 | 6.1 | 1,214,000 |
| MINING | | | | | |
| Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc. | 0.041 | 0.041 | 0.041 | 0.041 | 7,200,000 |
| Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.21 | 330,000 |
| Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B | 0.22 | 0.22 | 0.22 | 0.22 | 250,000 |
| Manila Mining Corp. B | 0.004 | 0.004 | 0.004 | 0.004 | 10,000,000 |
| Omico Corp. | 0.004 | 0.004 | 0.004 | 0.004 | 15,000,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. A | 0.24 | 0.24 | 0.24 | 0.24 | 10,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. B | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 100,000 |
| United Paragon Mining Co. | 0.042 | 0.042 | 0.042 | 0.042 | 200,000 |
| OIL | | | | | |
| Imperial Res. | 0.014 | 0.014 | 0.014 | 0.014 | 5,900,000 |
| Interport Res. B | 0.0034 | 0.0034 | 0.0034 | 0.0034 | 1,000,000 |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. A | 0.0036 | 0.0036 | 0.0036 | 0.0036 | 37,000,000 |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. B | 0.0036 | 0.0036 | 0.0036 | 0.0036 | 18,000,000 |
| The Philodrill Corp. B | 0.16 | 0.16 | 0.16 | 0.16 | 300,000 |
| Pacifica | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.012 | 200,000 |
| Vulcan Ind'l | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 200,000 |

| | SHARES | VALUE (P) |
|---|---|---|
| Banks & Fin Svc | 3,121,520 | 74,514,985.00 |
| Comm'l & Ind'l | 118,898,100 | 715,581,825.00 |
| PRO | 15,845,000 | 71,690,050.00 |
| Mining | 33,090,000 | 557,300.00 |
| OIL | 62,600,000 | 364,400.00 |
| GRAND TOTALS: | 233,554,620 | 862,808,560.00 |

AVERAGES

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Banks & Fin Svc | 548.28 | DOWN 9.25 |
| Comm'l & Ind'l | 1,829.96 | UP 9.68 |
| PRO | 612.91 | DOWN 4.68 |
| Mining | 1,320.70 | DOWN 1.79 |
| OIL | 1.32 | DOWN 0.04 |
| All Shares Index | 756.35 | DOWN 1.72 |
| Composite | 1,350.77 | DOWN 6.03 |

NO. OF ADVANCES: 32; NO. OF DECLINES: 28; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 47; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 107; NO. OF TRADES: 1,866

## CURRENCIES

May 10, 2002

| Country | Unit | Euro Equivalent | Foreign currency in US$ | Foreign currency in Peso |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States | Dollar | 1.099022 | 1.000000 | 49.9000 |
| Japan | Yen | 0.008568 | 0.007796 | 0.3890 |
| United Kingdom | Pound | 1.605121 | 1.460500 | 72.8790 |
| Hong Kong | Dollar | 0.140920 | 0.128223 | 6.3983 |
| Switzerland | Franc | 0.687878 | 0.625900 | 31.2324 |
| Canada | Dollar | 0.702071 | 0.638814 | 31.8768 |
| Singapore | Dollar | 0.607732 | 0.552975 | 27.5935 |
| Australia | Dollar | 0.595353 | 0.541712 | 27.0314 |
| Bahrain | Dinar | 2.915332 | 2.652661 | 132.3678 |
| Saudi Arabia | Rial | 0.293073 | 0.266667 | 13.3067 |
| Brunei | Dollar | 0.605689 | 0.551116 | 27.5007 |
| Indonesia | Rupiah | 0.000119 | 0.000108 | 0.0054 |
| Thailand | Baht | 0.025618 | 0.023310 | 1.1632 |
| UAE | Dirham | 0.299233 | 0.272272 | 13.5864 |
| Korea | Won | 0.000864 | 0.000786 | 0.0392 |
| Euro | Euro | 1.000000 | 0.909900 | 45.4040 |
| Brazil | Real | 0.455709 | 0.407000 | 20.3093 |
| Denmark | Kroner | 0.134481 | 0.122239 | 6.0997 |
| India | Rupee | 0.022612 | 0.020454 | 1.0207 |
| Malaysia | Ringgit | 0.290853 | 0.263158 | 13.1316 |
| Mexico | New Peso | 0.117389 | 0.105597 | 5.2693 |
| New Zealand | Dollar | 0.495203 | 0.450593 | 22.4846 |
| Norway | Kroner | 0.132036 | 0.120282 | 6.0021 |
| Pakistan | Rupee | 0.018448 | 0.016694 | 0.8330 |
| South Africa | Rand | 0.107670 | 0.096852 | 4.8329 |
| Sweden | Kroner | 0.107556 | 0.097616 | 4.8710 |
| Syria | Pound | 0.025115 | 0.022727 | 1.1341 |
| Taiwan | NT Dollar | 0.032041 | 0.028977 | 1.4460 |
| Venezuela | Bolivar | 0.001182 | 0.001064 | 0.0531 |

# LTO chief creating new vehicle insurance monopoly, group says

**By Elena R. Torrijos**

THE INSURANCE and Surety Association of the Philippines is protesting the Land Transportation Office's unilateral appointment last month of a supposedly undercapitalized company to clear vehicle insurance policies.

In a news statement, Isap said the LTO's decision violated the LTO's agreement with the Insurance Commission and ran against the insurance industry's own initiative to tap a credible clearing company.

Last week, LTO chief Roberto Lastimoso issued a circular ordering his staff to accept insurance policies authenticated by Cyberlink Worldwide Network Inc.

Prior to Cyberlink's designation, consulting firm DTech Management Inc. had the sole authority to authenticate third-party liability insurance policies for vehicles being registered with the LTO.

DTech was supposed to be a consortium of non-life insurance companies, but it was later criticized as a vehicle to monopolize the auto insurance business in the country.

Isap, an umbrella organization of non-life insurance companies, said with DTech no longer functioning, Lastimoso had effectively handed over DTech's monopoly to Cyberlink.

The group complained that Lastimoso ignored an agreement that both the LTO and Insurance Commission would jointly choose the outfit that would authenticate all vehicle insurance policies.

Isap president Victoria Ramon Flores added that Lastimoso's decision would force the non-life insurance industry to accept a small company whose financial capability and technical expertise had been found wanting.

Isap has been selecting a service provider for the LTO through an auction when Lastimoso decided to designate Cyberlink.

Twelve companies submitted bids and three were included in a short list of candidates.

Cyberlink, according to Isap, failed to qualify because it supposedly lacked financial capacity and technical competence. The group said Cyberlink also failed to get the Insurance Commission's approval.

"Lastimoso states that a system should be implemented at once to prevent further loss of revenue. However, installing a service provider that has failed to qualify and asking said company to operate without any insurance company to support it smacks of autheritarianism," Isap complained.

Isap reported that fake insurance policies had become rampant, with LTO figures showing that only 3.7 million vehicles were registered with the agency while Insurance Commission figures indicated that less than 900,000 vehicles were insured.

A compulsory third-party liability insurance policy is a requirement for registration of a vehicle with the LTO.

"Aside from loss of government revenue, the fact that Juan de la Cruz holds a fake insurance policy leaves him holding an empty bag in case accident arises," Isap said.

Meanwhile, a group of 22 insurance companies that have been active in the issuance of vehicle insurance policies have written to Cyberlink to inform the company that it will not honor policies based on forms secured by the company from any member of the insurance group. ***With a report from Abigail L. Ho***

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# Ayala group posts ₱1.33B in Q1 profit

AYALA Corp., the country's largest and oldest conglomerate and one of its most conservative, yesterday reported first quarter earnings in line with its own estimates and those of analysts.

Although it said Ayala Land Inc., its real estate subsidiary and the largest property company in the country, reported a 4-percent drop in first-quarter income to P500 million, earnings were likely to pick up later in the year.

Ayala Corp. posted first-quarter net income of P1.33 billion, slightly up from P1.31 billion in last year's first quarter.

"This is in line with our expectations," said Mike Ordinanza, an analyst at PCI Securities. "It's going to be better in succeeding periods given the expectation of higher economic activities and low interest rates which could aid their profitability. At least they are stable."

The results were announced shortly before the stock market closed and both Ayala Corp and Ayala Land ended flat at P5.90 and P7.20, respectively. The overall index ended 0.44 percent, down at 1,350.77 points.

Other Ayala units include Bank of the Philippine Islands and Globe Telecom Inc., the second largest telephone company in the country, both of which had reported first-quarter earnings earlier.

The conglomerate said the Philippines' low interest rate environment had affected the income of its banking unit but promised to boost earnings at Ayala Land, which had suffered slightly because of the traditionally slow first quarter.

"Our real estate businesses stand to benefit from the very low interest rates and improving consumer confidence," CEO Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala said in a statement.

"If 2002 continues to progress on its current trajectory, then we expect to record stronger results for the full year."

Ayala Corp.'s revenues for the quarter stood at P7.24 billion. Ayala Land posted revenue of P2.3 billion in the period.

Both the company and analysts expected Ayala Corp. to post flat to slightly higher net income in the first quarter, with growth seen picking up in the second half of the year as the domestic economy gathered momentum.

Ayala Land's slight dip in first-quarter income had been predicted by the company last month. ***Reuters***

# No big discount for NHMFC loans, says SSS chief

THE SOCIAL Security System said it would sell P28 billion worth of loans under the National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. only if interested buyers would offer more than 22 percent of the book value of these assets.

In an interview, SSS president and chief executive Corazon de la Paz said the state pension fund would rather ride out the current property slump than sell its mortgages at a steep discount.

"We might really have to look at our own way to earn money. We might as well wait for a turnaround in the economy or create another vehicle to dispose of the assets," De la Paz said.

She expressed confidence that with a little patience, the SSS might be able to get double or triple the 22-percent ballpark figure initially quoted for the NHMFC portfolio.

NHMFC has tapped international auditing giant Ernst & Young as a financial adviser.

The auditing firm is currently conducting a due diligence of P42 billion in loans managed by NHMFC, including P28 billion from the SSS and the balance from the Home Mutual Development Fund, or Pag-IBIG, and the Government Service Insurance System.

The home loan portfolio cannot be sold without the approval of the SSS, GSIS and Pag-IBIG.

De la Paz earlier said she wanted SSS to be reimbursed by the national government for any losses from the sale of the assets at a discount.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said, however, that he would wait for the recommendations of Ernst & Young before deciding on the SSS' request. ***Elena R. Torrijos***

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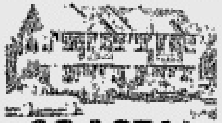

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SSH nr CASH & CARRY 1-3BR,56-115sqm 10-18T/mo P&L2 CONDO 551-2586

#### PASIG

Pasig 17T 3br 9155177

#### QUEZON CITY

Regalia Tower P. Tuazon cor EDSA 3BR2TB w/ furn P20T/mo. w/o furn P13T/mo. 4575463 /4575376; 0917-9126611

### FOR LEASE

200m²-2200m² covered whse
located at Las Pinas
Evelyn 872-8105 • 873-3993

53 GOV PASCUAL WHSE 3610652

Prime Property For Restaurants
Quezon Ave. QC 50 to 840m² infront of Jollibee & Nat'l. Bookstore across McDonald
Call • 374-2165 / 2167

### ROOM & BOARD

2 LDY FREE L/W 3T 7405625

MKTI FEMALE 729-5220

Nr SM CT a/c new 9271821

ZOBEL ROXAS & AMATISTA & SOUTH SUPER HIWAYS CALL 0920 2069132

### BEDSPACE

Mkt NrAyala M/F prkg 8906331

nr DLSU w/food P6.5T 8992148

### LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% w/o TAKING CAR 3670169

### BUSINESS RENTAL

524 EDSA KALOOKAN 3610652

COMMERCIAL BLDG 4 RENT (220 sqm) (Formerly Texas Chicken Restaurant) near Church, City Hall, School, Jollibee, Mercury, M. Asistio Street (10th Avenue) Kalookan City suited for banks, Mart, Restaurant & Bookstore Call Ruth - 254-7001; 287-0380 or cell 0919-5808549

FACTORY/WAREHOUSE
along Marcos Hway nr Sta. Lucia 760m² 3BR 3TB 2office
Tel. 457-5463/457-5376;
0917-9126611

Ground Floor Office Space 4 Rent Parktrade Madrigal Biz Park 50 sqm 09175288239

MAKATI nr BUENDIA
Plamo 38/85/62/185m² 1st class 8903461 loc 34 or 19 ofc hrs

Office Or Business Space East Capitol Dr. 634-1212

Prime Comm Space 400m² Pasay Rd. Corner Amorsolo Mkt City 521-5821 / 0919-8911750

SSH nr CASH & CARRY 45-92sqm Gr-3/F 10-25T/mo P&L 2 CONDO 551-2586

### WANTED TO LEASE

INT'L FOUNDATION LOOKING 4 MAX. 130m² • HIGH QUALITY OFFICE IN MAKATI CDB. 723-5035

**PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER**
East Avenue, Quezon City

The Philippine Heart Center, Division of Anesthesia is accepting applicants for Fellowship in Cardiovascular Anesthesia.

All applicants must be graduate of an accredited Anesthesia Residency Training Program. For inquiries, contact OER Tel. **925-2401** loc. **3234-3236** or Anesthesia office local **2268**.

Deadline of submission will be on the last week of **June 30, 2002**.

## TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

### CARS

#### HONDA

97 Vtec 35Mlg 0919-4790636

#### HYUNDAI

1999 STAREX VAN P520T
ENDING PLATE 8
LOW MILAGE
CALL CELL# 0917-5383184

#### ISUZU

ELF CANTER SUZUKI 9126976

#### SUZUKI

HiLander 1999 9476411

#### TOYOTA

94Tamaraw FX 2.5L Turbo dsl nutrnt grlle batt clutch dual a/c PNP-2002 regsld P275T Cell- 09175329379

#### JEEP/JEEPNEY/AUV

Jeep 2001 P265T neg 4D30 10 seaters 4546828

#### OTHER CAR BRANDS

97 Chrysler Voyager Minivan 3L-V6, Auto Pwr Mirrors, CD/AM/FM, Cruise Ctrl, Excel Cond-Owner Driven USD9000 or Best Offer •857-0085/0086/818-9759•

Pajero Delica Safari Mu Trooper HI Ace 9120647

### HEAVY EQUIPMENT/ TRANSPORT

Executive Aircraft Beechcraft Baron B55 Fax (02)850-9016 For Information

Loader Kubota 4x4 Pison F-Lift Genset weldr 3672002

## TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

### CARS FOR RENT

L3•Cars• 9273453 4538295

Starex MB100 Coaster Bus Call 631-3496 • 637-7396

BNew L3 8533103/09163443087

BNEW VAN 8254058 8261045

BRDAL MB VANS 9296250

Vans Coaster Bus 913-9123

Cars/Vans Cheap 8203894

HI ACE VANS 8252988

IT/HIACE 9136710/4333682

L300/Vans 578-8917(Roger)

MARIAN CARS BRIDAL VANS CSTER 8957247/8969956

StarexMB100HiAce9483535

SPECIAL-CARS & VANS
Starex, Urvan, L300, REVO, Altis, Honda, Lynx, Exalta, Matic, Cars/Vans Pajero ABC-5368822/3039789

Toyco Cars / Vans / Starex / Coaster / Rental 800-6595

### WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

### CAR LOAN

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 3677523/24

2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

2% w/o taking car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3732083

## GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

### BAKERY EQUIPMENT

OVEN, Roller, Kneader Brd Stands, etc. 0916-3597367

### FURNITURE

P65UP 1MP YAMAHA o/brds no Int 6mos PAY 9240834

YAMAHA PIANOS
Grand & Upright T7213124

### HOME APPLIANCE

34&29"Sony/Tosba REF 7to18 CUFT All A1/Imported 7767507

### PETS

DALMATIAN PUPS
4 Female 6 Male (3 Liver Spots) Champion Line w/ Papers w/ Shots 825-0428 / 826-0774

DOG TRAINER 4528681

MALE SHITZU
Complt Shots/Papers, sired by Phil Champ Tel.No.823-4805

Protect your lives and properties!
Have your dogs trained by the:
Phil. Dog School
Trains dogs scientifically. For: Security / Guardwork Obedience/House-Breaking. Tel 721-3736 / 0917-8483181

SUPERWORM-HIPROTEIN FUD 4 LAPU' FINGRLNGS, AQ, FISH AROWANA, BIRD 4478831/33

### SPORTING GOODS

BILLIARDS P33/36/38T A1 Qlty B.New 8014494/8020566

### WANTED TO BUY

ANY ROLEX
Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair
Tel# 804-0484 • 834-2886

B/SELL FULY PD EDUC PLAN Gie 7137284 09177939632

BUYING ROLEX
others, High Price CASH 09178142306/7269687/4123543

Buy/Pawn Diamonds T834-2886

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
5633742 5646593 09178473744

### MISCELLANEOUS

2 Boxes, Sealed-Unused
ARIMEDEX
Distributor's Price@
P11,200 per box
text@0916-471624
for Big discount.

Used Narra Basketball Gym Flooring at Acropolis Subdivison For Inquiries Please Call at 687-6001 or 635-3789

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### MALE

Immed hiring Civil Engr min 7yrs exp fax resume 6339063

### FEMALE

BEAUTICIAN DOMESTIC HELPER •562-3962•

EQUAL AGENCY
Maids Int'l Cook Yaya
Call 433-1390

Need PRE-ED Teacher
Call 655-0609

OFC ASST. Stay in 8530469

RECEPT/RES/REP SALES w/ travel exp helpful. Call Josie at 890-2840 or 7608

WANTED RECEPTIONIST for an established company: Female, 25-35yrs.old, honest, pleasing personality & with at least 3 yrs. experience. Contact 0917-5303128 or 0917-5300732

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### MALE/FEMALE

BSEED, BSE, COL. PROF Tel. # 7246750; 9265049

CARE GIVER T5280722

Expd. 5 Yrs. Furn.-Quality Control (Arch./Ind.Engr. Graduate) Contact:Mr. Esguerra Tel.#861-9315/24

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING
•RADIATION TECHNOLOGIST
w/PRC License
•MEDICAL PHYSICIST
w/experience in
Brachytherapy
•NURSE
Pls. fax Resume to 935-2621
or 0917-5274354.

FOTOSHOP PRINTR 7111650

★OFC STAFF 18/45 W/WO EXP STARTASAP 9134470 RUBY★

★Urgent Ofc Staff 18/45 w /wo exp 9137740 EVA ★

• VETERINARIAN •

*Ofc Staff 18-45 w/w/o exp Start ASAP 9134470 Violet

SALES CLERKS AT LEAST 2ND YR. COLLEGE 18-25 YRS OLD PREF. SINGLE APPLY AT 812 ELCANO ST., BINONDO MANILA BRING RESUME W/PICTURES, NBI, BIRTH CERTIFICATE, PREV. EMPLOYMENT CERT., BETWEEN. 8:00-9:00 AM

Urgent Ofc Staff 18-45 w/w/o exp Start Asap 9134470VINA

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### AUCTION SALE

C.Y. Lopez Pawnshop Inc. #602 JP RIZAL ST.,MAKATI CITY; #15 GEN. SANTOS AVE., LOWER BICUTAN, TAGUIG; REAL ST. ALMANZA UNO LAS PINAS CITY will hold an Auction Sale on May 18, 2002 at 9:00A.M. including all items pawned up to DECEMBER 2001.
*V.Zamora Jr. Lic. Auctioneer*

### BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Bar & Billiards w/ 2BR + TB Calumpang 0917-8143792

Botique-Pque 0917-7911393

CAP EDUC PLAN
Monet 2528373 • 09174037776

EARN & TRAVEL 09196165084

EARN EXTRA 7111650
0917-8422838 0917-5335057

•Travel N Earn From Home•
earn-and-travel.com
8531008 (0917)8101851

EARN FROM HOME W/TRAVEL 2477469 09192157588

GREAT NEWS ! IF UR NOT EARNING OVER 200T/m @ UR PRSNT NETWRK BUS. LETS TALK NOW 8072359 RESH

HANDS ON BAKING LESSONS BREADS & CAKES # 9383639

I MADE P5,000,000/mo
Needs People To Train
Tel.# 536-8322

JUICE DRINK MAKING BUSS. TRAINING, RAW MAT'LS. AVAIL. 2554643 2554644 2553584

Teens, Adults Wear 3736821

Travel & Earn From Home 02-6870963 / 0917-5319792

Work fr Home w/ Travel 8376068

### LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late ALBERTO S. VELOSO was extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc #457 Page #74 Book #1 Series 2002 before Notary Public Atty. Enrico Voltaire Almeda of City of Manila.
(PDI -May 11, 18 & 25, 2002)

# HI-GRADE

HI-GRADE FEEDS, CORPORATION

We are a fast growing company who is urgently in need of highly competent, aggressive and confident young individuals to fill-in the following positions.

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

Male; not more than 26 years old; Licensed Doctor of Veterinary Medicine; work experience in handling product seminars is a must; at least 1 year continuous driving experience and with valid driver's license; with excellent communication skills; confident speaker.

## TECHNICAL SALES REPRESENTATIVES

Male; 22 to 28 years old; preferably an Animal Science, or Veterinary Medicine graduate; with at least 1 year continuous driving experience and with valid driver's license; with good communication skills; sales and marketing experience is an advantage; self-motivated, honest, hardworking and personable; willing to be deployed for provincial assignments.

## FARM VETERINARIAN

Male or female, not more than 30 years old; Doctor of Veterinary Medicine; with or without experience; efficient; preferably single and willing to stay in farm.

## ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Female; not more than 27 years old; Animal Husbandry graduate; preferably single; stay-in in farm, honest and reliable.

**If you possess the qualifications stated above, then you are the one we are looking for. Answering this ad could change the course of your life.**

Previous applicants need not apply. Interested applicants may personally come for interview or send their comprehensive resumé with latest 2x2 picture and transcript of records to:

**HI-GRADE FEEDS CORPORATION**
105 Bo. Bagbaguin, Sta. Maria, Bulacan
Tels. (044) 641-0792 to 94 or (02) 364-0131; 330-3470

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URGENT!!!

## LICENSED TEACHERS FOR ELEMENTARY

(Math, Science, English, Music, Religion)

**COMPUTER TEACHER**
**PREPARATORY TEACHER**
**LIBRARIAN**
**DENTIST** (preferably male)
**GUIDANCE COUNSELOR** (preferably male)
**FOR HIGH SCHOOL** (English, Filipino, AP)

Please apply personally with your Transcript of Records at:

LOURDES SCHOOL OF MANDALUYONG
Shaw Boulevard, City of Mandaluyong
(beside St. Francis Church)

**Those above 35 years old need not apply.**

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# NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

**WOODROW JADER RICARTE y CASTRO**

**ADDITIONAL ADDRESS:**

*Block V - Casablanca St., Sierra Monte Subd. (Filinvest Homes East) Cainta, Rizal
* Iraya Norte, OAS Albay

**A pending WARRANT OF ARREST for the case of Estafa under CRIMINAL CASE No. Q-01-106110 Regional Trial Court Branch 226.**

**A reward will be given for any information leading to his arrest.**

**PLEASE CONTACT:**
**CITIBEDS ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**
**Tel. Nos.:**
**411-2208 / 371-6341**

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INQUIRER

# TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

## First Pinay legislator

***Q.*** Who was the country's first congresswoman?

***A.*** Elisha Ochoa, who won in the lone district of Agusan in elections for members of the 3rd National Assembly in 1941. Next was Remedios Ozamis-Fortisch, of the lone district of Bukidnon, in the 1st Congress of 1946. Following her were Carmen Dinglasan-Consing, of the 1st district of Capiz, and Tecla San Andres-Ziga, of the 1st district of Albay, in elections for the 3rd Congress in 1953. A bar topnotcher, San Andres-Ziga won again in 1957, making her the first female to serve two terms in the House of Representatives. She went on to become senator in 1963.

**For the Record.** The world's first 10 women presidents and prime ministers: Sirimavo Bandaranaike -- PM of Sri Lanka (1960-65, 1970-77); Indira Gandhi -- PM of India (1966-77, 1980-84); Gold Meir -- PM of Israel (1969-74); Elisabeth Domitien -- PM of Central African Republic (1975-76); Isabel Peron -- President of Argentina (1975-76); Margaret Thatcher -- PM of the United Kingdom (1979-90); Maria Lourdes Pintassilgo -- PM of Portugal (1979-80); Vigdis Finnbogadottir -- President of Iceland (1980-present); Eugenia Charles -- PM of Dominica (1980-present); and, Gro Harlem Brundtland -- PM of Norway (1981, 1986-89, 1990-present). If you're wondering, Corazon Aquino of the Philippines was the 13th woman to become either a president or prime minister.

***Classified Odd.*** Women of the Balanta tribe, in Binar, Portuguese Guinea, annually perform a dance in which they balance on their heads a huge basket containing their husband or sweetheart.

**WORD WATCH**

**Gynics** (guy niks) : the study or knowledge of women.

PDI – May 11, 2002

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# NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION

161 Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila
Tel. No. 527-4873, 527-4892
& 527-4880 to 82

## INVITATION TO BID

### GENCO 1 02-005 (PB)

*DATE OF BIDDING -- MAY 24, 2002*

| | |
|---|---|
| 0108-008 | 2 units, Control Valve, for Generator Brake, 3/2 way valve with manual control E1.5, NW 12, ND 25, R 1/2", 125 VGS, Manufacturing No. 24134-02S1 1500. Manufactured by Herion 20 AB |
| 0204-003 - TES | 8500 cu.m. Armour Stone 2.5 - 3.5 tons and of (1.5 to 2.5 m in diameter). Pre-bid conference is scheduled on April 23, 2002, 2:00 p.m. at the NPC Old Building, Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila. Qualified suppliers/contractors must attend the said conference. |
| 0205-006 - TES | 1 lot, S/P of ABB-CE Pulverizer with Model HP 1103, Manufactured by Alstom, consisting of 28 items |

Bid documents will be available to accredited suppliers starting **May 13, 2002** and may be secured from Administration Division during working days from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. upon payment of P25.00 for ONE ENVELOPE SYSTEM and P50.00 for TWO ENVELOPE SYSTEM.

Bids must be in triplicate and shall be accompanied by Bidder's Bond equivalent to 5% of the total bid price either in Cash, Manager's Check, Irrevocable LC, Bank Draft/Guarantee or Surety Bond from GSIS Insurance Commission.

The corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality contained therein and accept the bids considered most advantageous to the corporation.

(Sgd.) **LORNA T. DY**
*Manager*
*Professional Services Department*

(PDI - May 11, 2002)

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# ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

P.O. Box 789 Manila, Philippines
6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines

## PROCUREMENT OF MULTI-POINT VIDEOCONFERENCING GATEWAY/BRIDGE

The Asian Development Bank ("ADB") is inviting bids for the supply and delivery of one set of Multi-point Videoconferencing Gateway and Bridge.

To be qualified for the bidding: (i) the bidder shall be from a member country of ADB, and (ii) the multi-point videoconferencing gateway and bridge being offered shall be produced in a member country or countries of ADB; and (iii) the bidder has or is an authorized distributor in the Philippines of the product being offered who has the resources to provide parts, labor and manpower during the one-year warranty period.

The bid documents may be obtained from the Head, Procurement Section, Office of Administrative Services, Asian Development Bank (Room 1636S) from **7 to 30 May 2002**, during 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, upon payment of a non-refundable nominal fee of US Dollars Fifty (US$50.00) or Pesos Two Thousand (P2,000.00) in cash or manager's/cashier's check payable to Asian Development Bank at ADB's Cashier Section located at Room G241W. A foreign supplier may send the payment in a cashier's check payable to Asian Development Bank, in an envelope addressed to:

Head, Procurement Section
Office of Administrative Services
Asian Development Bank
P.O. Box 789, Manila
6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City
0401 Metro Manila, Philippines

Fax Nos.: (632) 636-2577; (632) 631-6899
Tel. Nos.: (632) 632-4235; (632) 632-4371

The bid documents will be sent to foreign suppliers by air courier.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in amounts prescribed in the bidding documents and must be delivered in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders not later than 2:00 p.m. on **31 May 2002**. Public bid opening will follow immediately thereafter.

ADB will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation of delivery of bids.

ADB reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to award of order, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for ADB's action.

(PDI – May 11, 2002)

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Repubilka ng Pilipinas
Republic of the Philippines
**KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON**
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**
DepEd Complex Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Education through the Health and Nutrition Center is inviting all manufacturers/suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for 1,633,680 packs of fortified instant noodles for the implementation of the Breakfast Feeding Program (BFP) for School Year 2002-2003. The approved budget for the project is P5,800,000.00.

All interested manufacturers/suppliers must submit a Letter of Intent before obtaining bid documents starting **May 8, 2002** at the BAC Secretariat Office, Room 112-A, Mabini Building, DepEd Complex, Pasig City or visit the DepEd website at http://www.deped.gov.ph

A pre-bid conference will be held on **May 16, 2002, 10:00 AM** at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Building I, DepEd Complex, Pasig City. The Submission and Opening of Bids will be on **May 30, 2002** at the same time and place mentioned above.

DepEd-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids.

(Sgd.) **RAMON C. BACANI**
Undersecretary
Co-Chairman, DepEd-BAC

(PDI -- May 4 & 11, 2002)

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Repubiika ng Pilipinas
Kagawaran ng Pagsasaka
PAMBANSANG PANGASIWAAN NG PAGSASAKA AT PANGINGISDA
(National Agricultural and Fishery Council)
Diliman, Lungsod ng Quezon
Tel. No. 928-87-41 to 66 local 510

Tender No. 25th RP-JFPP/2002/01
May 7, 2002

## INVITATION TO BID

The National Agricultural and Fishery Council (NAFC) hereby invites sealed bids for the sale of around 97,401 metric tons of Ammonium Sulphate Fertilizer for July to February 2003 shipments.

Tender documents can be secured from the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) NAFC, Apacible Hall, Department of Agriculture Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City starting on **May 13, 2002.**

The pre-bid conference shall be held on **May 14, 2002** at 10:00 a.m.

Fully completed sealed bids should be submitted not later than 2:00 p.m. on **May 17, 2002.** Bids received after the scheduled time will not be accepted/entertained and will be returned unopened.

For details, please contact Mr. Joseph de los Santos at Tel. Nos. 928-1966 or 929-8234.

(Sgd.) **RICARDO A. VILLO, JR.**
*Executive Director*

(PDI--May 10 & 11, 2002)

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# LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

Official Depository Bank of the Republic of the Philippines

## SECOND (2nd) INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID FOR THE SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF ROLL-UP/SUN SCREENS

All corporations registered with the Philippine Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), with extensive supply, delivery and installation experience in roll-up/sun screens (around 8,000 sq.m.) for office buildings are invited to apply for pre-qualification for the bidding of the Bank's roll-up/sun screen requirements for the new LBP Headquarters Building in Malate, Manila with the following schedule:

| Issuance of Pre-Qualification Form | Pre-Qualification Conference | Issuance of Notices of Pre-qualification/ Pre-disqualification after | | Issuance of Notices of Pre-qualification/ Pre-disqualification | Issuance of Bid Documents | Pre-Bid Conference | Bidding Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| May 13-14, 2002 @ 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM | May 14, 2002 @ 3:00p.m. | a. Evaluation of Pre-qualifications Documents & Brochures | May 27, 2002 | June 06, 2002 | June 07, 2002 @ 9:00a.m. to 3 p.m. | June 11, 2002 @ 10:00a.m. | June 14, 2002 @ 10:00a.m. |
| | | b. Evaluation of mock-ups versus Brochures | June 06, 2002 | | | | |

All interested Suppliers may obtain the Pre-qualification forms from the Ad Hoc Group Office, c/o Project Management and Engineering Department (PMED), 24th flr., Land Bank Plaza, 1598 M.H. del Pilar cor. Dr. J. Quintos Sts., Malate, Manila, upon payment of a non-refundable processing fee of P1,400.00 for the new suppliers (those who did not secure the pre-qualification documents during the first invitation), and P700.00 for those who have submitted pre-qualification documents during the first invitation.

After the pre-qualification conference, Suppliers shall be given one (1) day to signify in writing their interest to join the pre-qualification process by accomplishing the proforma Letter of Intent (LOI) included in the pre-qualification forms issued earlier. Attendance to the pre-qualification conference is among the requirements for pre-qualification.

Duly accomplished Pre-qualification forms shall be submitted to and received at the above-stated office not later than May 17, 2002, 3:00PM, after which no documents will be accepted. All participating suppliers shall be notified in writing of the results of the pre-qualification.

Only pre-qualified suppliers may secure Bid Documents at the above-stated office/date upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P5,000.00.

Pre-Qualification and Pre-Bid conferences will be held at the Facilities Management and General Services Group (FMGSG) Conference Room, 24th Floor, Land Bank Plaza, 1598 M.H. del Pilar cor. Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila.

Bidding shall be conducted using the two (2) envelope system (envelopes "A" and "B") to be submitted to and received not later than 10:00 AM on June 14, 2002 (the Bidding Date). Bidding shall be held at the FMGSG Conference Room, 24th Floor Land Bank Plaza, 1598 M.H. del Pilar cor. Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila.

LBP reserves the right to change the date of issuance of bid documents, pre-bid conference and bidding date. Due notice of changes shall however be communicated by LBP to pre-qualified bidders.

LBP likewise reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense/loss that they may incur during the preparation of their bids, and to accept the bid that is most advantageous to the Bank.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO T. HERNANDEZ**
Chairman,
Sub-Committee for LBP HQ Building Project

(PDI – May 11, 12 & 13, 2002)

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**A leading industry in packaging and advertising materials is in need of the following personnel:**

1. A graduate of B.S. Chem or Chem Eng'g with experience in color matching.
2. Industrial Engineer with experience in process engineering activities.
3. Buyer - must be an experienced engineer in procurement.
4. HR Specialist - Must be a Psychometrician and adept in all phases of HR functions.

Highly competitive compensation package awaits to successful candidates
Please send your resumé at:
CORP. HR
Rm 502 East Tower, Tektite Center
Ortigas Center, 1605 Pasig City, Philippines

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Republic of the Philippines
**Local Civil Registry Office**
**Province of Rizal**
Municipality of Rodriguez

## NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that MANOLITO B. SAN JOSE has filed with this Office a petition for the Change of First Name from NOLY to MANOLITO in the birth certificate of NOLY B. SAN JOSE.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition to this Office not later May 22, 2002.

(Sgd.) **ERLINDA C. ALVAREZ**
*Municipal Civil Registrar*

(PDI - May 11 & 18, 2002)

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## NOTICE OF LOSS

The public is hereby informed that the Original Copies of the following documents were lost:

1. Original Copies of Confirmation Certificate #47008023, issued by LTO East Avenue, Quezon City dated October 14, 1999.
2. Original Receipt of Smiling Transit Co., Inc. issued by Manila Mahogany Corp., Pasig City dated December 4, 1999.

Finder please call Corazon F. San Luis at 563-3265 or 564-0305.

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
**CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT**
**METRO MANILA**
Welfareville Compound, Bgy. Addition Hills
Mandaluyong City
Tel. # 71830-98 or 535-4529

April 30, 2002

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID CHD-MM BAC-ITB NO. 2002-01

The Department of Health-Center for Health Development-Metro Manila (CHD-MM) invites all interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following, for the use of CHD-MM chargeable against GOP funds:

1. **Drugs & Medicines**
2. **Medical, Environmental, Surgical & Laboratory Supplies**

Only duly accredited suppliers/manufacturers/distributors as certified by the Suppliers Accreditation Committees for Drugs and Medicines and for Medical, Dental, Environmental, Surgical & Laboratory Supplies & Materials of the Department of Health are qualified to participate in this bidding.

Bidding documents can be secured from Mr. Henry Mendiola or Ms. Elenita Esmero, at Bldg. 1 2/F Regional Director's Office, CHD-MM, Welfareville Cmpd., Brgy. Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of FIVE HUNDRED PESOS, Philippine Currency (P 500.00).

**Schedule of Activities**

| | |
|---|---|
| a) Issuance of Bid Documents | May 6-15, 2002 (9:00 AM-2:00 PM) Building 1 2/F, Office of the RD |
| b) Submission of Eligibility Requirements | May 15-17, 2002 (9:00 -12:00 AM) Conference Room 2, Training Bldg. |
| c) Pre-bid Conference | May 21, 2002 (9:00-12:00 AM) - Medical, Environmental, Surgical and Laboratory Supplies<br>May 21, 2002 (1:30-3:00 PM)-Drugs & Medicines Amphitheatre; Training Bldg. |
| d) Submission and Opening of Sealed Bids | June 6, 2002 (8:00-9:00 AM)-Medical, Environmental, Surgical and Laboratory Supplies Conference Room 1, Training Bldg.<br>June 6, 2002 (9:00-10:00 AM)-Drugs & Medicines Amphitheatre, Training Bldg. |

All activities will be held in CHD-MM, Welfareville Compound, Brgy. Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City.

For further information contact the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) secretariat c/o Mr. Henry C. Mendiola at tel. # 718-3098 (Drugs & Medicines), or Ms. Elenita Esmero at tel. # 718-3097 & 535-4521 (Medical, Environmental, Surgical & Laboratory Supplies).

The BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids and to annul the bidding process anytime prior to the award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the CHD-MM's action.

(Sgd.) **DAVID J. LOZADA, JR., MD, MPA, CESO III**
*Director IV, CHD-MM*

(PDI--May 4 & 11, 2002)

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**By Clarissa S. Batino**

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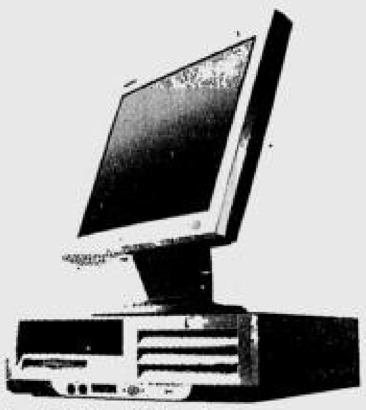

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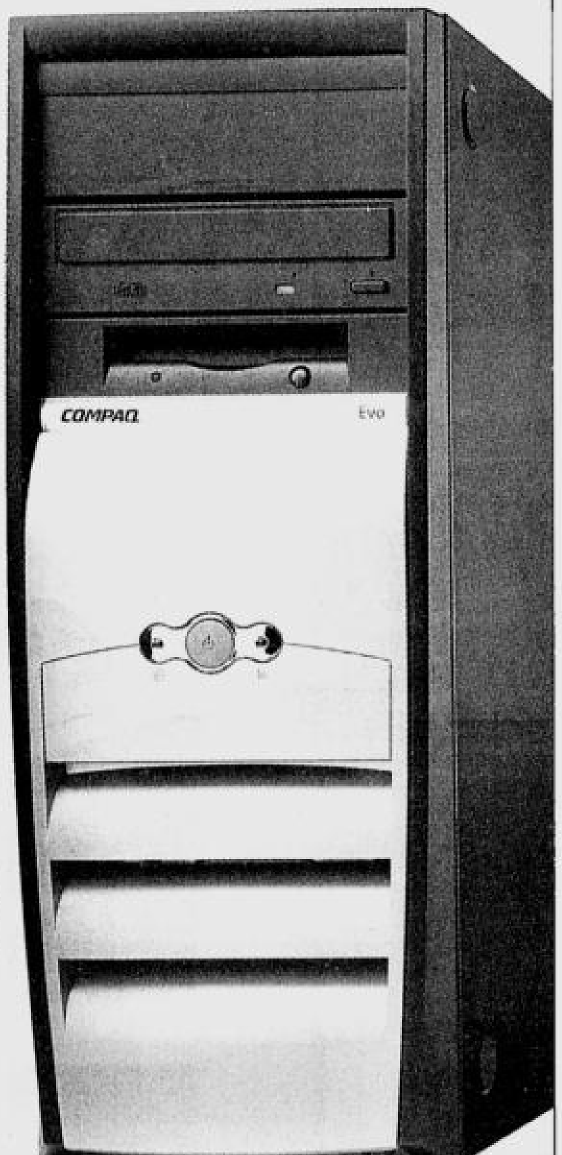

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# Naia firm fears loss of business

**By Doris C. Dumlao**

AVIATION services firm Macro Asia Corp. fears running out of business unless the government dismantles the "monopolistic" provisions of its Ninoy Aquino International Airport III contract with Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco).

In an interview with the INQUIRER at the sidelines of the Baguio Gold Holdings Corp. stockholders' meeting on Thursday, MacroAsia chief operating officer Joseph Chua said the company would be badly hit by the Piatco contract because its business heavily relied on its Manila international airport operations.

MacroAsia, which is owned by tobacco magnate and Philippine Airlines owner Lucio Tan, has a ground handling/catering joint venture with Singapore Air Terminal Services and US-based Eurest International servicing the Manila airport.

"The problem is that the local partner of Piatco is also into the ground-handling business and they are also the airport's landlord," Chua said.

"But if that contract is not amended, MacroAsia as well as the other five airport operators shall be out of business and everything shall be controlled by only one group, the Cheng family," he said. "It's not fair not only for us but for our foreign partners who took a chance investing in the Philippines only to find out that they could run out of business next year."

The Naia Terminal 3 was a project conceived by Asia's Emerging Dragon Corp. composed of six Filipino-Chinese industrialists during the Ramos administration but the $600-million build-operate-transfer project was awarded to Piatco, which offered a better proposal.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has already ordered a review of the contract due to complaints over certain "onerous" provisions.

Piatco—controlled by Frankfurt airport operator Flughafen Frankfurt Main AG, the People's Aircargo and Warehousing Co. Inc., Philippine Airport and Ground Services Terminals Inc., SB Airport Investments Inc., and Nissho Iwai Corp.—plans to exclude domestic operations from the Naia 3 facility, which will open in December. All international operations from existing terminals 1 and 2 will be transferred to the new complex.

Piatco will also have the sole ownership and management of companies offering aviation services in the airport worth an estimated P2 billion each year.

# Neda body passed airport agreement

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During confirmation hearings of Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez at the Senate, Neda Director General Dante Canlas pointed out that the contract was deemed by the ICC-Neda to be "advantageous to the government and to the Filipinos."

"Both the build-operate-transfer scheme for the Naia IPT project and the Amended Restated Concession Agreement (Arca) between Piatco and the government were approved by the ICC-Neda," Canlas said.

He disclosed that the Neda secretariat did not find anything wrong with the three supplements to the Arca and that it in fact was set to endorse the supplements but had deferred the action to give way to an inquiry conducted by the House Committee on Transportation and Good Governance.

The Neda chief explained that the contract would provide a 34-percent economic rate of return, way above the 15-percent hurdle rate the agency uses to approve a project. The economic rate of return represents all benefits that will accrue to the national economy from a proposed project.

The construction of the airport facility at a cost of more than P26 billion is being undertaken at no cost to the government as the project is a BOT involving Filipino, German, Singaporean, and Japanese companies which comprise Piatco.

The new facility, which rests on a 180,000-square-meter lot, is expected to accommodate 13 million tourist arrivals a year from the present 6 million that the Naia is capable of handling, and put in place a modern air facility in the country comparable to the world's best airports.

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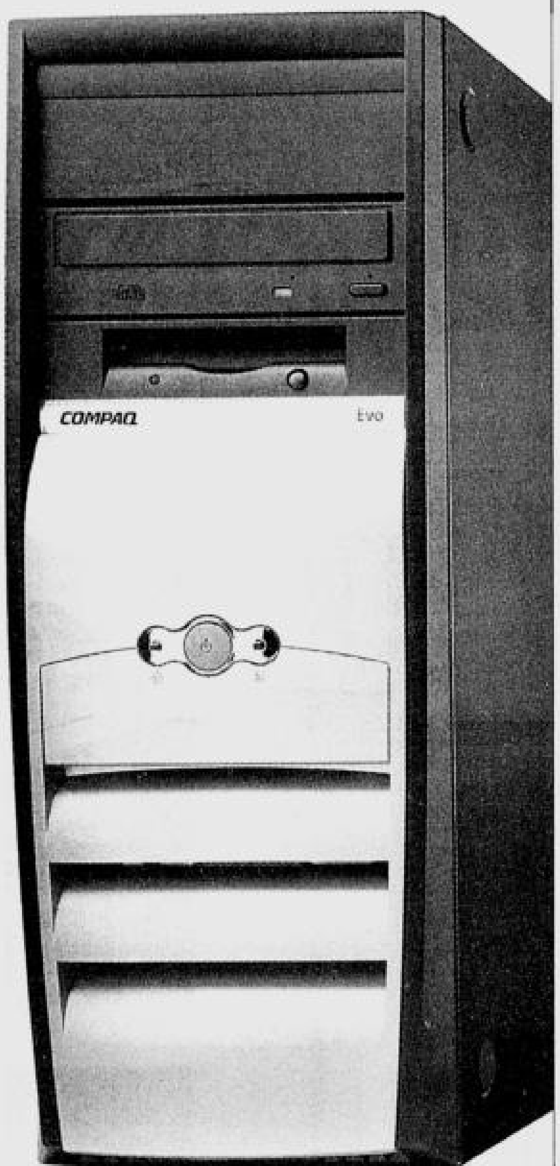

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# Economic optimism, closer ties with China dominate ADB meet

SHANGHAI—The Asian Development Bank kicked off its annual meeting on an optimistic note on Friday, with finance ministers patting themselves on the back for weathering a US recession and forecasting a quick recovery.

"If we can show good governance—this applies to all countries in the region—then I think there is hope for all of us to do better," said Pakistani Finance Minister Shaukat Aziz.

"The 21st century will be Asia's century, but our ability to achieve our full potential is with us," he told investors.

Asian finance chiefs, gathered at the ADB's 35th annual three-day meeting, will discuss steps to foster closer regional economic cooperation and ensure a nascent recovery gains traction to achieve the ADB's main goal of alleviating poverty.

Before getting down to business, delegates were treated to a colorful opening ceremony featuring local children singing in English, dancing and performing acrobatics. The theme—"A Rising Star"—was another reminder of China's economic ambitions.

Chinese President Jiang Zemin told the meeting China would continue to open its economy, which monopolizes foreign investment into the region, while being a good neighbor.

"China's recent accession to the World Trade Organization marks the beginning of a new stage in the country's reform and opening up to the outside world," he told delegates.

"No matter how the world may evolve, China will forever be a good neighbor, a good friend and a good partner to other Asian countries."

Beneath the optimistic rhetoric, a tug-of-war for Asia's hearts and minds is being played out between Japan and China, the region's two biggest economies.

Japan is seeking to defend its position as the region's economic superpower and role model. China, as Shanghai's glittering skyscrapers symbolize, is simply too big and too fast growing to ignore. *Reuters*

## Greenspan says US following classic recovery

WASHINGTON—Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan told business executives this week the US economic recovery was following a classic historic pattern of increased growth before expanding profits, Sprint Corp. chief executive Bill Esrey said on Thursday.

"He basically said, 'Look, you can never predict these things but this recovery'—and he's assuming it's a recovery—'is following so far a very classic approach, that you get some GDP (gross domestic product) increase before you get some margin expansion and profit. But you know there's no guarantee that the future follows the past'," Esrey, head of the No. 3 long-distance carrier, told Reuters in an interview.

Greenspan also told the executives, who were attending a closed-door meeting of the Business Council here on Wednesday, that the recent jump in US productivity was distorted and there was some statistical "noise" in the numbers. *Reuters*

## Durability of Japan's economic recovery in doubt, analysts say

TOKYO—Despite a string of upbeat data, few in Japan's markets have faith in the durability of what many see as a nascent economic recovery, mainly because it is being driven by external factors, a Reuters poll shows.

The survey of 45 economists, strategists, fund managers and traders showed 76 percent expected any upturn to be short-lived as the structural impediments that bogged down the world's second largest economy for over a decade were still in place.

Recent indicators suggested that the Japanese economy, which contracted for three straight quarters to the end of 2001, might finally have stopped shrinking.

A rise in exports, thanks to a global economic recovery, has begun to filter through the economy. But problems remain.

"Domestically, the excess in employment, production capacity and debt has yet to be resolved, and we are not in a situation where capital spending or household income would go into full-fledged growth," said Yasuo Goto, a senior researcher at Mitsubishi Research Institute.

The government is expected to upgrade its overall assessment of the economy for the third straight month when it publishes its monthly economic report next week, given improvements in some key indicators since last month's report.

On Thursday, the Cabinet Office said its index of leading economic indicators jumped to 80 on a scale of 100 in March from 54.5 in April. It said the index of coincident indicators, which measures current economic conditions, rose above the boom-or-bust 50 mark for the first time in 15 months. *Reuters*

## DuPont reaches deal over patent case

WILMINGTON, Delaware—DuPont Fluoroproducts has announced that it has reached an out-of-court settlement with a major European fluorochemicals manufacturer over infringement of DuPont patents for certain hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) blend refrigerants.

According to DuPont, the European manufacturer was engaged in inappropriate export of high-value HFC blend refrigerants into the Asia-Pacific market. The infringement allegation by DuPont was primarily focused on the manufacturer exceeding the scope of its authorization to manufacture, market and sell DuPont Suva HFC 404a.

This is the second out-of-court settlement that DuPont has reached this year over HFC refrigerant blend patent infringement. An earlier settlement, announced on Feb. 20, also involved a major European fluorochemicals manufacturer.

"DuPont is committed to protecting its global patent estate for high-value HFC Suva refrigerant blends and will continue to investigate and take necessary actions to that end," Mark Baunchalk, DuPont Fluoroproducts global business manager, said.

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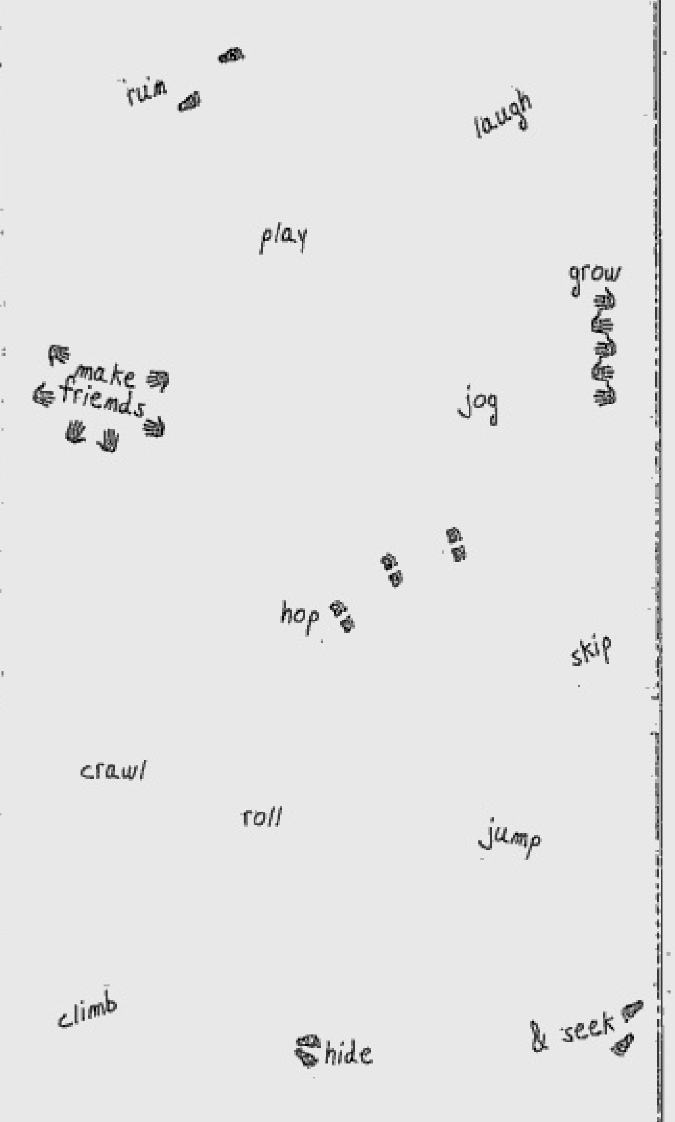

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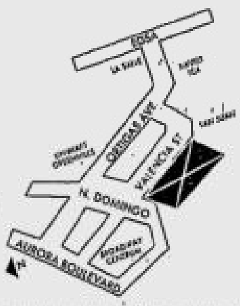

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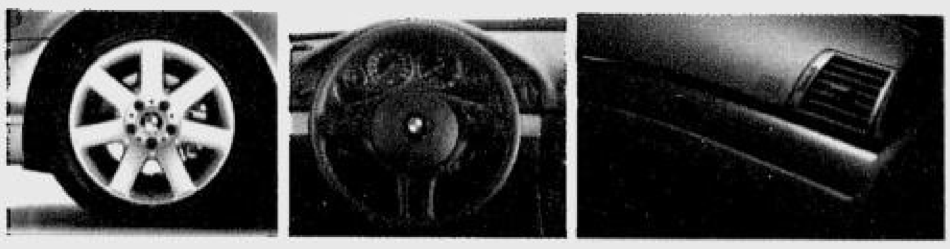

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*"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."*
Matthew 11:28

On the 40th day of the passing of

## *Dominador Arias Cariñgal, Sr.*

the family acknowledges with grateful appreciation,
all those who condoled with them.

***Maraming Salamat po!***

---

## JESUS CASTILLO BRINGAS

*Peacefully joined his Creator on May 4, 2002*
*at the age of 88.*

His loving wife **Edith**; children and in-laws **Roger** and **Nene**, **Ajelo** (†) and **Remy**, **Landoy** and **Letty**, **Boboy** and **Ma. Luz**, **Nesto** and **Jemimah**, **Romeo** and **Luz**, **Jessica**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His remains lie in state at the Bringas Compound, Km. 3, JC Aquino Avenue, Libertad, Butuan City.

He will be laid to rest on May 12, 2002 at the San Vicente Memorial Park after the 12:00 noon Mass at the Sto. Niño Shrine, Libertad, Butuan City.

---

Our Dearly Beloved

## YANG PAO KIM VIUDA DE LIM KE KIU

of Aparri, Cagayan

*Died in the Grace of our Lord on May 10, 2002*
*at the age of 95.*

Her loving children **ENG BIO** (†), **ALEJANDRO** (†), **PAULINO & MATY**, **ELISA & ANTONIO NGO PEK KONG** (†), **TRANQUILINO** (†), **ROSA & BONIFACIO YAO**, **LOLLY & BENJAMIN SY BIN AN**, **VICTORINO & AIDA**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will be announced later.

---

## *Engr. Esteban Camacho Rosales*

*Died in the Grace of our Lord*
*with peace and joy in his heart and soul*
*on May 9, 2002 at the age of 90.*

His loving wife **NENA**; children **ANGIE & Boy**, **ESTEBAN JR. & Helen**, **LARRY** (†), **TONY & Edna**, **CYNTHIA & Ruben**, **SWEET & Beda**, **DORIS & Ardy**, **DARLING & Hiro**, **VICTOR & Lysmin**, **RAOUL & Bubbles**, **BERT & Amy**, and **ANDREW** together with grandchildren and great grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the ATENEO DE NAGA UNIVERSITY CHAPEL and will be transferred at FUNERARIA IMPERIAL, Peñafrancia Avenue, Naga City on May 11, 2002.

Interment will be on Tuesday, May 14, 2002 after the 2:00 p.m. Holy Mass at Peñafrancia Basilica Minore.

---

In Memory of our beloved

## LEONORA RIVERA LABAYEN

**of Alaminos, Pangasinan**

*Who joined our Creator on May 6, 2002.*

Her husband **Retired Capt. & Former Undersecretary Benjamin R. Labayen, Jr.**; children **Manuel**, **Leslie**, **Dennis**, **Benjamin Jr.**, **Marilyn Sacasas**, **Milagros Atienza**, **Jose**, **Louis** and **Leon**; brothers **Judge Leonardo Rivera**, **Vice Mayor Leon Rivera Jr.**, and **Ricardo Rivera** (†); sisters **Paty Montemayor** and **Violeta de Castro**, request the pious readers for prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in Rivera residence, San Jose Drive (from Parish Church, in between JM Supermart & Konica Photo Express, LEFT side) Poblacion, Alaminos, Pangasinan.

Interment will be on Sunday, May 12, 2002 (Mother's Day) after the 9:30 a.m. Mass at the Alaminos Parish Church, Pangasinan.

*"Your presence will be deeply missed but the memories of your goodness*
*as a loving mother and a loving wife will live us and remain in our hearts forever"*

*husband, children, brothers, sisters*
*grandchildren, and in-laws*

---

## PERFECTA SANCHEZ ROQUE VDA. DE BAUTISTA

Her bereaved children **Vic & Debbie**, **Manny & Joy**, **Dindo**, **Bobby & Dolly**, **Toots & Baby**, **Benjie & Sandy**, **Louie**; grandchildren; brothers **Joe & Claude**; sisters **Norma & Maritz**; brothers-in-law **Jake de Vera & Armando Gomez**; sisters-in-law **Mary Roque & Mick Roque**, nephews and nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Garden Suite of the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe. Cremation services will follow after the 10:00 AM Mass on Monday, May 13, 2002.

---

**I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.**
John 14:6

---

## RETIRED AMB. ROMEO O. FERNANDEZ

Of Cuyo, Palawan

*Passed away on May 6, 2002*
*at the age of 76.*

He is survived by his 98 year old mother **Dionicia O. Fernandez**; wife and children **Victorine**, **Annabelle**, **Stephanie**, **Angelica** and **Romina**; brothers **Luis**, **Fernando**, **Reymundo** and **Clemente**; sisters **Marina**, **Sylvia**, **Imelda**, **Elena**, **Dionisia** and **Ninfa**.

Funeral Mass will be on May 14, 2002 at 1:00 p.m. at Sta. Rita de Cascia Parish, South Lawn Avenue, Philamlife Homes, Quezon City.

Interment will follow at Himlayan Cemetery, Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

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# LEONORA FIGUEROA PASCUAL

## (Sr. LEONORA del ESPIRITU SANTO OCDS)

Peacefully joined her husband **Isosceles S. Pascual** to be with our Lord on May 10, 2002 at the age of 87. The family rejoices in the Lord's goodness for giving her a long and accomplished life and a serene death.

Her bereaved children

**Solita** and **Lito Lardizabal**
**Norie** and **Baby Mirasol**
**Abe** and **Sylvia Pascual**
**Isosceles Pascual Jr.**
**Mayumi Pascual** and **Morley Unatin**

Her grandchildren

**Mike** and **Claudia**, **Yeyeng** and **Mary**
**Paolo**, **Gabby**, **Sancho Lardizabal**
**Mouchie** and **Dave Chittenden**, **Lee**, **Lou**,
**Didit** and **Vik Cerny**
**Alan**, **Raf** and **Monica**, **Arnie Mirasol**
**Maui**, **Jappy**, **Mia**, **Crissy**, **Mikey Pascual**

Her great grandchildren

**Amanda Lardizabal**
**Nicholas**, **Natalie Mirasol**
**Melia**, **Baby Cy Chittenden**
**Lil'Victor Cerny**

Her sisters

**Maxima F. Balmaseda**
**Felisa F. Santiago**

Request relatives, friends and all whose lives she may have touched and comforted to pray for her eternal repose. Her remains lie in state at the Mt. Carmel Hall, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, New Manila, Quezon City. Masses will be held every evening. Funeral Mass will be on Tuesday, May 14, 2002 at 8:00 AM.

Interment will follow at Loyola Memorial Park Marikina.

In lieu of flowers, donation to the following charitable organizations she has designated will be appreciated. Kadiwa sa Pagkapari Foundation, Inc., Bethlehem House of Bread, Salesian Mission, Inc.

---

Pascual

**PASCUAL LABORATORIES, INC.**
**and its subsidiaries**

announce with deep sadness the passing away of our beloved
Corporate Co-Founder and Chairman Emeritus

# LEONORA FIGUEROA PASCUAL

## (Sr. Leonora del Espiritu Santo OCDS)

She peacefully joined our Lord on May 10, 2002 at the age of 87.
Her remains lie in state at the Mt. Carmel Hall,
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, New Manila, Quezon City.

Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 8:00 AM
on Tuesday, May 14, 2002 and interment will immediately follow
at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina.

AIRIAP STUDY

# RP fails to keep up with int'l. asthma management goals

By Charles E. Buban

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

FINDINGS released from the largest cross-regional epidemiology study into asthma ever undertaken in the Asia Pacific show that the Philippines along with all the countries included in the survey, falls significantly short of the established worldwide goals for long-term asthma management.

According to the Asthma Insights and Reality in Asia Pacific (Airiap), 61 percent of Filipino asthmatics surveyed claimed to have suffered from severe episodes of coughing, wheezing, chest tightness or shortness of breath in the past year. Another 46 percent have reported being hospitalized, visited a hospital emergency station or made an unscheduled emergency visit to physicians in the past year.

The Airiap study, which was presented during the World Asthma Day commemoration last week, has also revealed that 30 percent of Filipino asthmatics surveyed exhibit daytime symptoms at least once a week while another 26 percent reported being awaken by symptoms occurring at night at least once a week.

The Airiap study was conducted by Isis Research between September and December 2000, and is based on a sample of 3,200 asthmatics from 13 cities across China, Hong Kong, Korea, Malaysia, Vietnam, Singapore, Taiwan and the Philippines.

Similar to studies in America and Europe, the results of the Airiap study demonstrate the current state of asthma management in Asia Pacific.

### A lot of work to do

"We have a lot of work to do to get closer to the goals established by the Global Initiative for Asthma (Gina), which aim for minimal or no symptoms of asthma. The study clearly revealed that we need a renewed focus from all sectors of the community toward managing the condition of asthma, which is a controllable disease," urges Noel Isberto, VP for corporate affairs of GlaxoSmithKline, a New Zealand-based pharmaceutical company that sponsored the landmark study.

The Gina, a joint collaborative project between the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute at the National Institutes of Health, and the World Health Organization, was created to help health care professions, public health officials, and patients around the world reduce asthma prevalence, morbidity and mortality.

It prepares scientific reports on asthma management and prevention, encourages dissemination and adoption of the reports, and promotes international collaboration on asthma research.

The goals of the Gina decreed that a person with asthma should have minimal or no symptoms, sleep disturbance, episodes or attacks, emergency hospital visits, or need for "quick relief" medication. It also decreed that patients with asthma should enjoy normal levels of activities including exercise and have near normal lung function.

### Limited understanding

Dr. Teresita de Guia, head of the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Medicine of the Philippine Heart Center and steering committee member representing the Philippines in the study, says that "the limited understanding of the severity of asthma shown by this study is alarming."

Eighty-one percent of Filipino asthmatics are unaware of the root cause of asthma attacks believing that only the symptoms can be addressed. By symptom control, it refers to drugs that an asthmatic takes—usually through an inhaler—during an attack.

In fact, 94 percent of Filipino asthmatics who responded in the study still use bronchodilators while only 6 percent use inhaled corticosteroids, a medication essential in controlling the inflammation in the lungs, the root cause of asthma.

"Therefore, it is not surprising to observe an overuse of quick relief medications and low use of controlling and preventor therapies. The inability to recognize the benefit of preventative medication, causes unnecessary suffering for persons with asthma," explains De Guia.

Insufficient monitoring was also identified as another reason for failing to meet the goals set by the Gina. In the past year, only 13 percent of Filipino asthmatics in the survey took a lung function test. Even the peak flow meter, a tool used in monitoring the severity of an asthmatic's condition is infrequent—only 4 percent own one in which half of them use once a week.

## *Understanding asthma*

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

ASTHMA is a disease of the respiratory system that affects some 100 million individuals worldwide. It is a very complex disease, with lots of different pathways leading to chronic inflammation of the airways that causes it.

Among its several types, the best understood is allergic asthma, which accounts for about 60 percent of all cases. It is triggered by an allergen that can be a dust, a mold, a pollen or an animal dander. A series of reactions is set off whenever an allergic person is exposed to any of these allergens.

The process starts with the production of antibodies in the immune system whose purpose is to capture unwanted invaders. These antibodies journey through the bloodstream and lock onto the surface of so-called mast cells, plentiful in the nose, eyes, lungs and gastrointestinal tract. Then they lie silently in wait—until the allergen strikes again. The antibodies, now in position and ready to attack the allergens, trigger the release of inflammatory chemicals such as histamine and prostaglandin in the body.

As a result, the airways become inflamed, causing it to narrow. This condition, known as bronchospasm, makes the victim to begin wheezing and coughing, and even lose breath.

Not every case of asthma is triggered by an allergen. Exercise, cold outdoor temperatures and other factors may trigger asthma in some susceptible individuals. While those cases, too, are characterized by inflammation and narrowing of the airways, the reasons are not completely understood.

### Different medicines

There are many different medicines that doctors may use to help people with asthma. Some medicines are swallowed (pills or liquids), some are inhaled (breathed in through your mouth or nose), and some are injected (given as a shot in one of your muscles or veins). For most people, inhaled medicines are used first because they start working very fast (usually in less than five minutes) and they don't have too many side effects.

Medicines can work in different ways to help people who have asthma. Bronchodilators make the muscles around the airways to relax. Another group of drugs called antiinflammatory agents (corticosteroids or steroids) lessens the swelling and irritation in the airways.

There are also inhaled medicines that are used to prevent asthma attacks from starting like cromolyn sodium that prevents airways from swelling when they come in contact with an asthma trigger. However, among these anti-asthma medications, the most promising is new antibody-based therapies that operate by preventing cells from "talking to one another" to set up the inflammation. These novel drugs are not yet out in the market, however.

---

# How safe is canola oil?

**EUREKA!**

*Queena N. Lee-Chua*

SINCE last year I have been receiving forwarded e-mails claiming that canola oil poses health threats, such as increasing the risk of heart disease. Since practically all the health magazines I subscribe to tout canola oil as one of the lowest in saturated fat, and thus, one of the best choices for cooking, our household has switched from corn oil to canola a few years back. This paradoxical piece of news came as a rude shock. Is canola oil good or bad?

I turned to Dr. Niña Rojas of the Ateneo Chemistry Department, who sent two interesting articles from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The plant where canola oil comes from is called rapeseed, and has been grown in Europe for centuries. However, I was not happy to note that rapeseed had been used primarily as a marine steam engine lubricant! During World War II, when European rapeseed supplies were cut off, the plant was grown in Canada. After the war, however, diesel replaced rapeseed.

How about rapeseed as food? Though it had been consumed by Asians and Europeans for some time, researchers did link the erucic acid in rapeseed oil with heart disease as early as 1970. The Canadian government announced that unless these concerns were addressed, it would end production of rapeseed oil. But in 1974, two scientists finally succeeded in replacing most of the erucic acid with oleic acid (a type of monounsaturated fatty acid). Thus, the term "canola" came to be—for "Canadian oil."

Canola became popular in the US market, too, since concern with fats was growing. In 1985 the FDA approved rapeseed oil as GRAS (generally recognized as safe) for food use, provided it contains no more than 2 percent of erucic acid. (The levels today range from 0.3 to 1.2 percent, with an average of 0.6 percent.)

How about the oft-repeated claim that canola oil has the lowest percentage of saturated fat of all vegetable oils? Dr. David Firestone, FDA oil expert and senior research chemist, opines, "I wouldn't say canola has the lowest amount of saturated fat of any vegetable oil, but it's certainly true of the edible oils available on the market." Other (mostly) monounsaturated and polyunsaturated products include olive oil, sunflower seed and safflower oils. These do not increase the risk of heart disease, unlike saturated oils such as coconut, palm kernel, palm, and cocoa butter.

For further information, please refer to www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/CONSUMER/CON00265.html and www.fda.gov/bba/topics/ANSWERS/ANS00198.html

* * *

My husband Smith forwarded the following humorous (and supposedly factual) e-mail. A first-grade US teacher collected well-known proverbs. She gave each child in her class the first half of a proverb and asked them to come up with the other half. I don't believe that all these actually came from first graders, but read them—and have a good laugh. You may even find yourself nodding in agreement.

Better to be safe than: punch a 5th grader.

Strike while the: bug is close.

It's always darkest before: Daylight Savings Time.

Never underestimate the power of: termites.

You can lead a horse to water but: how?

Don't bite the hand that: looks dirty.

No news is: impossible.

A miss is as good as a: Mr.

You can't teach an old dog new: math.

If you lie down with dogs, you'll: stink in the morning.

Love all, trust: me.

The pen is mightier than the: pigs.

An idle mind is: the best way to relax.

Where there's smoke there's: pollution.

Happy the bride who: gets all the presents.

A penny saved is: not much.

Two's company, three's: the Musketeers.

Don't put off till tomorrow what: you put on to go to bed.

Laugh and the whole world laughs with you, cry and: you have to blow your nose.

There are none so blind as: Stevie Wonder.

Children should be seen and not: spanked or grounded.

If at first you don't succeed: get new batteries.

You get out of something only what you: see in the picture on the box.

When the blind leadeth the blind: get out of the way.

Better late than: pregnant.

---

# The case of the last masterpiece

By Rafael R. Castillo, M.D

**MEDICAL FILES**

KA Tio was one of those lucky ones who had made a living out of his passion. He hated routines and only worked when inspired and motivated. He was a sculptor, known for his beautiful creations which made its way to the homes of his numerous patrons. Because of his excellent artistry, he was able to provide his family with a comfortable life. Life had indeed been good to him.

At age 56, Ka Tio was still very much into his craft. It was not so much for the money anymore since his children have all graduated from college and were already busy with their own careers and life. It was more because of his need to satisfy his passion of breathing life to a piece of wood, metal or cement. His sculpting and his family were the sources of his joy.

It was indeed ironic that a man who had so much life to give would find himself in a position to lose his own. Ka Tio had the tendency to take himself and his health for granted. He had irregular sleeping hours and did not eat properly. He was also a chain smoker.

### Perfecting his masterpiece

As he was finishing a life-size mother-and-child sculpture he intended to give his pregnant daughter as a gift on the birth of her firstborn, Ka Tio started complaining of weakness and poor appetite. At first, he thought it was merely because of overwork, too much excitement or of aging. His worried wife told him to rest for a while but Ka Tio would continue to spend days and nights perfecting his masterpiece. Sometimes, he even skipped meals. It seemed that he knew that time was running out on him.

The day he finished his sculpture, he felt immense joy like he never felt before. Little did everyone knew that it would be Ka Tio's last masterpiece.

Ka Tio felt weaker and weaker. His appetite was hardly there even for his favorite dishes and he lost so much weight. His skin and eyes began to turn yellow and he was itching all over especially at night. He complained of intense pain in his abdomen piercing to the back. His wife was alarmed and decided to rush him to the hospital.

### Cancer of the pancreas

Based on Ka Tio's clinical presentation, his attending physician already suspected cancer of the pancreas and discussed the possibilities privately with Ka Tio's wife. He hoped he was wrong but diagnostic tests which included ultrasound scans, computed tomography (CT) scan and biopsy confirmed the doctor's initial diagnosis.

The word "cancer" in itself was enough to scare Ka Tio and his wife. They were even more frightened when they realized the kind and extent of cancer that Ka Tio had.

### Low survival rate

Pancreatic cancer is the fourth leading cause of cancer deaths in men and women. About 2 out of 10 patients with cancer of the pancreas will live for a year after the cancer is found, but only very few will survive for 5 years.

The main reason for the low survival rate from pancreatic cancer is that it is hard to diagnose it early. Patients usually have no symptoms until the tumor has grown large. Right now there are no blood tests or others tests that can find this cancer early in people without symptoms. By the time a person has symptoms and is diagnosed, the cancer usually has spread to the neighboring lymph nodes, liver or lung in 80 percent of cases.

These symptoms depend on what part of the pancreas the cancer occurred. Most commonly, the cancer occurs in the head of the pancreas, the part nearest the duodenum and the common bile duct. Jaundice, which is caused by the obstruction of the common bile duct is thus, an early symptom.

On the other hand, the tumor in the body or the tail part of the pancreas may obstruct the vein draining the spleen, resulting in the enlargement of the spleen and the formation of varices (swollen blood vessels) around the stomach and esophagus. These varices may rupture, causing severe bleeding, particularly in the esophagus.

No one knows the exact causes of pancreatic cancer. Doctors can hardly explain why one person gets pancreatic cancer and another does not. However, research has shown that people with certain risk factors are more likely than others to develop pancreatic cancer. These include age, smoking, family history and chronic pancreatitis or inflammation of the pancreas.

The outlook for patients with pancreatic cancer is very poor. Most die within a year of diagnosis; many will die within three to six months. In 10 percent of cases, surgery may extend survival up to five years or more, but this is only performed when the cancer has not spread. Further additional treatment has not been shown to enhance survival.

Dr. Antonio Villalon, president of the Philippine College of Physicians (PCP) and one of the pioneers of Oncology (cancer treatment) in the country, says that in patients with advanced pancreatic cancer and other terminal conditions, key principles in therapy are to make the patient comfortable and to prepare him/her and the family for the patient's imminent death.

Pain is usually the most discomforting symptom in terminal cancer; hence, pain control is important. Dr. Villalon says that in many cases, strong pain killers including morphine may be given just to make the patients a little more comfortable in the remaining few weeks or months of their lives.

### Preparing positively for death

Dr. Villalon adds that preparing the patient and family emotionally and spiritually is a big challenge to the attending physician, who is usually an internist (a specialist in Internal Medicine). "This is something they have not taught us in medical school, which we have to learn hands-on in practice," says Dr. Villalon.

Initially, the physician has to contend with the denial which the patient and relatives show when told they will likely die of their illness. The physician has to assist the patient and family come to terms with reality, so they can start preparing positively for death—which may mean finishing a life's work and whatever needs to be taken care of, setting right with family and friends, and just making peace with oneself.

Although beyond the realm of medicine, the internist or any physician confronted with a terminally ill patient, usually calls in a pastor, priest or other members of the clergy to give appropriate spiritual assistance to terminally ill patients. For many patients, a terminal condition can give them the spiritual awakening and growth which they have neglected in the healthy stages of their lives.

Some spiritually prepared terminally ill patients would even say that despite their condition, they have found a profound sense of peace, says Dr. Villalon.

### Few month to live

When Ka Tio was initially told he only had a few months to live, it was as if the whole world caved in on him. Because of the advanced stage of his cancer, surgery and other forms of cancer therapy were no longer advisable. Just months ago, he had been excited with the prospect of life, with the birth of his first grandchild. Now, he was facing death—the exact opposite of life, portraying which was what he considered his main mission and passion. He was not prepared to see his life end so soon, and so was his family.

A few days before he died, he opened his eyes one morning and saw the most wonderful surprise of his life. Clara, his daughter and her husband were standing in front of him holding in their arms their son, Ka Tio's grandson.

Ka Tio held on to life for this glorious moment, to see his first grandchild. "He has big hands," he told his family with a smile, "he'll probably be a sculptor someday."

A few days later, Ka Tio breathed his last.

# Get to know your Internist's subspecialization

THERE are many subspecialties of internal medicine. While some internists—doctors for adults—practice general internal medicine, others take additional training to focus or subspecialize in specific areas of internal medicine.

Geriatrics—concerned with the health and well-being of older adults, they specialize in nursing home care, rehabilitation units, and helping the elderly with end-of-life care issues.

Sports Medicine—specialization in the evaluation and nonsurgical care of athletes and other active people, including injury and illness related to athletes and physical fitness, and care for people with specific medical problems wishing to begin exercise programs.

Critical Care Medicine—focuses on the diagnosis and treatment of a wide variety of clinical problems representing the extremes of human disease. They need to be competent not only in a broad range of conditions common among critically ill patients, but also with the technological procedures and devices used in the intensive care setting.

Cardiology—concentrates on disorders of the functioning of the heart, blood vessels, and circulation of the blood including heart attack, heart failure, serious heart rhythm disturbance, chest pain, heart murmur, and shortness of breath. Endocrinology—treats disorders of the endocrine glands and hormones including diabetes, thyroid disorders, infertility, metabolism, glandular cancers, growth hormone deficiency, genetic dysfunction, obesity, and hormonal imbalances.

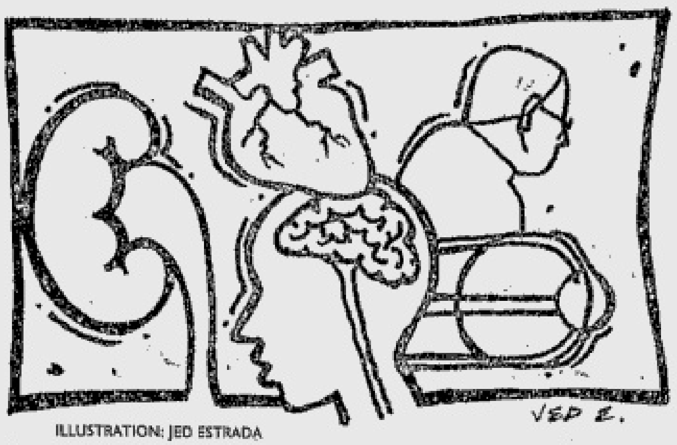

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

Gastroenterology—concerned with disorders and conditions of the gastrointestinal (GI) tract (i.e., the esophagus, stomach, small intestine, pancreas, colon and liver), including treatment of common diseases such as hepatitis B and C, colon cancer and cirrhosis.

Hematology—specialization in disorders of the blood, bone marrow, and lymphatic systems including leukemia, lymphoma, multiple myeloma, aplastic anemia and other bone marrow failures, abnormal clotting and bleeding, disorders of white blood cells or platelets, anemias, and Hodgkin's disease.

Nephrology—focuses on kidney diseases including treatment of diseases that cause kidney failure (diabetes mellitus and polycystic kidney disease) and are caused by kidney failure (hypertension), kidney stones, and dialysis.

Infectious Diseases—concentrates on the diagnosis and treatment of infections caused by bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites including infections accompanied by high fever of unknown origin.

Medical Oncology—treatment of cancer using medicines and treatment such as chemotherapy, curative therapy, pain management, and symptom management.

Pulmonology—concerned with diseases of the lungs and bronchial tubes including pneumonia, asthma, tuberculosis, emphysema, and complicated chest infections.

Rheumatology—specialization in problems of joints, muscles and bones including rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, gout, lupus, osteoporosis, and fibromyalgia. Allergy/Immunology—focuses on the immune system including respiratory tract diseases; skin disorders; gastrointestinal disorders from immune responses to foods; adverse reactions to drugs and diagnostic materials; diseases associated with autoimmune responses; symptoms of disorders caused by immunodeficiency; and stem cell, bone marrow, and organ transplantation.

*(Source: American College of Physicians, American Society of Internal Medicine)*

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### A.G. SISON MEMORIAL LECTURE

**FR. GREGORY D. GASTON, SThD**
Dean, San Carlos Seminary
Graduate School of Theology

| TIME | May 14 (Tuesday) | May 15 (Wednesday) | May 16 (Thursday) | May 17 (Friday) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7:00 | | Breakfast Sessions | Breakfast Sessions | Breakfast Sessions |
| 7:30<br>8:00<br>8:30 | REGISTRATION | Legal Safeguards for the Physicians<br>Professional Fees in Private Practice: Should There Be Guidelines?<br>POSTER SESSION I | Should PCP Make A Stand on National Issues?<br>Medical Research in the Phils: Are We on the Right Track?<br>POSTER SESSION II | Starting Your Practice: What Should You Consider?<br>Planning for Your Retirement<br>POSTER SESSION III |
| 9:00<br>9:30 | | PLENARY SESSION I<br>Cancer Chemo Prevention: State-of-the-Art<br>*Dr. Valorie F. Chan* | PLENARY SESSION IV<br>Economics in Medical Practice<br>*Dr. Antonio L. Dans* | PLENARY SESSION VI<br>Diabetic Nephropathy: Current Status and Future Directions<br>*Dr. Agnes D. Mejia* |
| 9:45 | | BREAK | BREAK | BREAK |
| 10:00 | | Breakout Sessions<br>Clin. Symposium: Interventional Medicine: State-of-the-Art<br>Algorithm: Management of Acute Coronary Syndromes<br>Clinical Skills Enhancement: CT/MRI of the Brain<br>Interactive: Connective Tissue Disorders<br>Oral Free Communication Session | A.G. SISON MEMORIAL LECTURE | Breakout Sessions<br>Clin. Symposium: Nutrition in Clin. Practice<br>Algorithm: Selected Neurological Problems<br>Clin. Skills Enhancement: Bedside Cardiology<br>Clin. Symposium: 'Rapid' Diagnosis and Chemotherapy in Selected Infections<br>Interactive: Management of Endocrine Emergencies<br>Informatics |
| 10:45<br>11:00<br>11:15 | | | PLENARY SESSION V<br>Current Status & Future of Clin. Trials for Innovative Therapies for Sepsis<br>*Dr. Steven Opal* | |
| 11:30 | | Lunch Satellite Symposium | Lunch Satellite Symposium | Lunch Satellite Symposium |
| 12:00<br>12:30<br>1:00<br>1:30 | | I Novartis *Isla I*<br>II Pfizer *Isla II*<br>III Bayer *Isla III*<br>IV U.A.P. *Palawan*<br>V Westmont *Garden Ballroom*<br>VI Eli Lilly *Batanes* | VII Novartis *Isla I*<br>VIII Pfizer *Isla II*<br>IX Therapharma *Isla III*<br>X Medichem *Palawan*<br>XI Pharmacia *Garden Ballroom*<br>XII Bayer *Batanes* | XIII Roche *Isla I*<br>XIV Merck, Inc. *Isla III* |
| 2:00 | Orientation of New Members | PLENARY SESSION II<br>Clin. Practice Guidelines: Prospects & Realities<br>*Dr. Mediadora C. Saniel* | ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING | PLENARY SESSION VII<br>MDR TB in the Philippines<br>*Dr. Thelma E. Tupasi* |
| 2:30<br>2:45 | | BREAK | | BREAK |
| 3:00<br>3:15<br>3:30<br>3:45<br>4:00 | | Breakout Sessions<br>Clinical Symposium: Liver Diseases<br>Algorithm: Practical Approach to Thyroid Disorders<br>Clin. Symposium: Alternative Medicine: How It Complements Conventional Medicine<br>EBM Forum: Albumin Infusion; Blood Transfusion; Inhaled Steroids in COPD<br>Oral Free Communication Session | | Breakout Sessions<br>Clin. Symposium: Global Risk Assessment for the Prevention of Atherosclerotic CVS Disease<br>Clin. Skills Enhancement: Nuclear Med. (Thyroid, Lung Perfusion, Bone Scan)<br>Clinical Symposium: Cancer Pain Control<br>Interactive: Medical Issues in Pregnancy<br>Informatics |
| 4:30 | Opening of Exhibits | PLENARY SESSION III<br>The Threat of Bioterrorism & the Efforts of Physicians & Health Care Workers in Defense Against Deliberate Use of Biohazardous Agents Against Civilian Populations<br>*Dr. Steven Opal* | PCP-Pfizer Medical Quiz<br>Grand Finals | PSBIM HOUR |
| 5:00<br>5:30 | OPENING CEREMONIES<br>Induction of New Affiliate Members and Certification of New Diplomates | PSBIM HOUR | | |
| 6:00<br>6:30<br>7:00 | | Dinner Satellite Symposium<br>I<br>Therapharma<br>*Isla I and II* | | CLOSING DINNER and FELLOWSHIP NIGHT<br>Induction of New Fellows |

# SCIENCE/HEALTH

*Editor* **Cesar D. Mangawang** ◎ *Assistant Editor* **Stella O. Gonzales**

# Choosing an internist to take care of all organs

By Tessa R. Salazar

**MORE and more doctors are attracted to subspecialization, or superspecialization amid rapid advances in medical science.**

Some doctors of internal medicine, called internists (not to be confused with "interns" who are trainees out of medical school), subspecialize by going back to school to focus on just one illness or on just one system of the body in one age group. An internist who focuses on heart or blood vessels becomes a cardiologist while one who focuses on the digestive system is called a gastroenterologist.

A general internist can also become a hematologist when he or she goes back to school to learn about disorders of the blood, bone marrow and lymphatic systems. The general internist could also be seen in his or her office or clinic, or sometimes in the hospital. And possibly even in nursing homes. It is the internist who manages the patient's care even when other doctors are involved.

## 'The doctor's doctor'

Often, other doctors ask internists for help with their own patients, as internists become links to surgeons or to other specialists. That's why internists have earned the term "the doctor's doctor." With their job, the internists become the front liners of subspecialists. They are trained to analyze the diseases and know the best time for patients to be referred to a surgeon or to a subspecialist. Their timing is not too early nor too late.

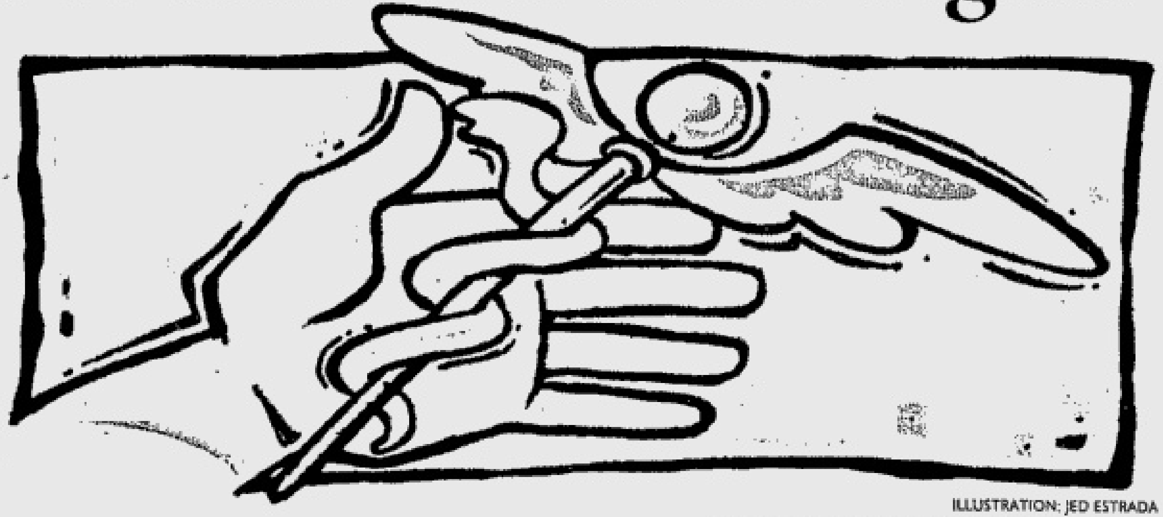

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

Though it is for the welfare of patients that internists focus on just one system of the body, there is the tendency that this would limit the types of patients a specialist would accept. Another drawback would be that subspecialization would become more costly for patients with multiple organ problems, as he or she would have to find three or more specialists who have to be paid separately, instead of settling the bill with a single all-around doctor.

## Appeal

Internist members of the Philippine College of Physicians—an umbrella organization of all internist-physicians in the country that accredits residency training programs in Internal Medicine—say that one of the organization's objectives is to bring general internists back into the picture.

PCP is appealing to all fellow internal medicine doctors to see the value of being "all-around internists" even with the trend in superspecialization rising.

"We are not stopping the deluge of superspecialists. The point is they can subspecialize on their field of interest, but we encourage them to still see the patient as a whole. We hope that an internal medicine doctor is still good at diagnosing all types of diseases and be well-rounded as a general internist," said Dr. Antonio H. Villalon, PCP president. Villalon is an internist with subspecialization on oncology.

The internists are the ones who coordinate patient care with other medical specialists such as general surgeons who operate on internal organs and pediatricians who take care of children's health. Meanwhile, other main types of primary care physicians not belonging to the field of internal medicine are family practitioners and general practitioners.

They are also the ones who diagnose and treat common and complex illnesses, provide care to adults and adolescents in both an office and hospital setting and specialize in health promotion and disease prevention.

Internal medicine doctors, however, do not deliver babies nor treat children, nor do operations. They spend at least three more years of their medical schooling learning how to prevent, find and treat illnesses in adults. They specialize in the age bracket of teenagers through old age.

No matter how common or strange the disease is, internists are always learning all they can about the heart and blood vessels, cancer, diabetes, digestion, liver, kidneys, blood, hormones, infections, rheumatism, adolescence and elderly health.

## Well-rounded

Internist Dr. Cecil Z. Tady, PCP chair, said that as a pulmonologist, he just doesn't encounter patients with lung problems but with other problems such as hypertension. But, as he is also qualified as an internist to treat hypertension, his approach is to treat other complaints the patient has.

"I practice well-rounded internal medicine as a general internist to be fair to my patients. I am also there to look into my patient's other diseases."

Tady also stressed that an ideal internist is somebody who is an adviser, a friend as well as a family doctor.

"They are the ones who would help you. They are not there to make things more complicated or hard for you."

## Specialty society

The PCP has a membership of about 5,200 physicians. It has 11 regional chapters, 13 component and affiliate societies. It is the specialty society of the Philippine Medical Association, a member society of the International Society of Internal Medicine and the Asean Federation of Internal Medicine.

The title of Diplomate in Internal Medicine is conferred upon a member of the PCP who has successfully passed the certifying examination for Diplomate in Internal Medicine administered by the examining arm of the PCP—the Philippine Specialty Board of Internal Medicine. At present there are 1,828 fellows (full-fledged) and 615 diplomates, those who have passed the exam but need two more years to become fellows.

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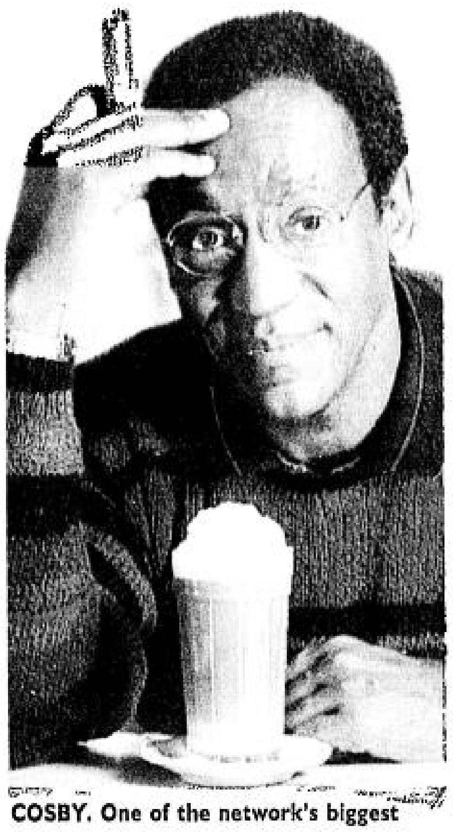


**COSBY.** One of the network's biggest stars.

# NBC summons stars for 75th anniversary gala

By Steve Gorman

**LOS ANGELES—With prime-time caught in a virtual time warp of TV nostalgia, NBC summoned more than 200 of its stars past and present for the mother of all reunion shows—a three-hour special celebrating its 75th anniversary as the nation's first broadcast network.**

### Live telecast

The live telecast on Sunday from Studio 8H at 30 Rockefeller Plaza, where "Saturday Night Live" is produced, featured a mix of celebrity walk-ons and tributes punctuated by clips from NBC's most memorable shows.

Produced by "SNL" veteran Lorne Michaels, the show was hosted by some of NBC's biggest stars, among them Bill Cosby, Michael J. Fox, Kelsey Grammer, Jay Leno and Jerry Seinfeld.

Joining the casts of current hits like "Friends," "Will & Grace" and "ER" were reunions of regulars from such past favorites as "Cheers," "Family Ties," "Hill Street Blues," "L.A. Law," "Miami Vice" and "I Spy."

The star of the landmark 1950s comedy-variety hit "Your Show of Shows," Sid Caesar, was there, as well, and so were Barbara Eden of "I Dream of Jeannie," Don Adams from "Get Smart," Peter Falk of "Colombo" and Mr. T from "The A-Team."

### No-show

One notable no-show was Johnny Carson, the retired "Tonight Show" host who turned down a personal appeal from NBC Chairman Bob Wright to make an appearance.

As a retrospective of 75 years of broadcasting, NBC had a lot of ground to cover.

Created in 1926 as a subsidiary of the Radio Corporation of America (RCA), the National Broadcasting Co. debuted as the nation's first permanent radio network with a four-hour live broadcast on Nov. 15, 1926, from the old Waldorf-Astoria on Fifth Avenue and 34th Street in New York City.

That historic broadcast, which included performances by the New York Symphony and humorist Will Rogers, drew an estimated audience of two million listeners.

They were tuned to the 25 stations that came to be called the "Red Network," as distinguished from a second set of affiliates that would later be called the "Blue Network" and ultimately give birth to ABC in the mid-1940s. The designations of red and blue referred to the color of the pencils engineers used in mapping out the station groups.

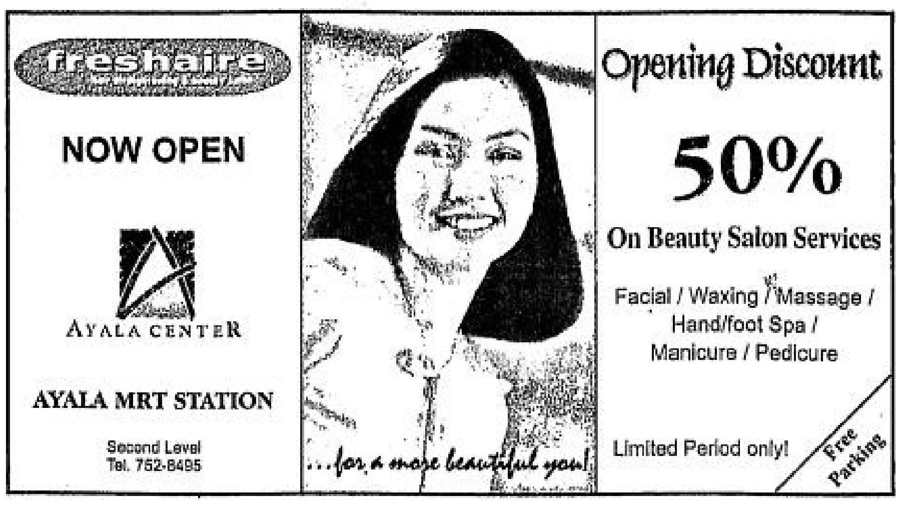
### Milestones

That milestone was followed by many others at NBC. There was the first coast-to-coast radio network broadcast—the Rose Bowl game from Pasadena, California—in 1927, the first network coverage of national political conventions in 1928 and the broadcast of Herbert Hoover's inaugural in 1929.

"The Goldbergs," an "ethnic" drama series about the Jewish immigrant experience, also went national in 1929, as did "Amos 'n' Andy." Bob Hope's radio debut came in 1933, the same year the first network news organization, NBC News, was created. And radio's first network game show, "Uncle Jim's Question Bee,"premiered in 1936..

TV actually came on the scene just a few years later, as NBC's experimental television station, W2XBS, began America's maiden daily telecast schedule at the World's Fair in

NBC/ p.C2



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# 'Journeys' is an entertaining musical romp

By Rito P. Asilo

**LAUREL.** Theatrical artistry.

**TRUST Cocoy Laurel to come up with shows that everyone will talk about for weeks.**

### Ineffable musicality

More than anything, "Journeys of the Heart" demonstrated Cocoy's ineffable musicality and theatrical artistry. Add to that his wide-ranging experience as a seasoned stage actor with a heart as big as his self-made church mural, which nicely translated into an honest, bigger-than-life performance.

When we got tickets to the concert, we knew we were in for a grand time. Our experience working alongside Cocoy, Iwi and their lovely mom, *Tita* Celia Diaz-Laurel, more than a year ago for the Laurel clan's annual reunion at the ritzy Manila Polo Club, left us in awe of the famous family—not only because we didn't expect them to be *that* nice, but also because we were impressed with their enviable "theatrical quotient."

With them, we mounted a production of "The King and I" with former Vice President Doy as the initially unenlightened but lovable King and *Tita* Celia as Anna Leonowens. (She generously regaled us with stories from theater and the movies, like Cocoy almost getting cast as Luntha in Yul Brynner's movie version of "The King and I" *and* discovering the potential of a six-year-old Monique Wilson unabashedly singing on top of the family's baby grand piano.)

*Tito* Doy fit his role to a T, and we admit we were surprised that he rose above everyone's expectations, in a clan full of singers, actors, painters and dancers.

### Resourcefulness

Their resourcefulness enabled them to find the stuff they needed, borrowing costumes and props from a theater company which mounted a commercial staging of the musical, and totally overhauling these to make them look more like the real thing than just paste headdresses and cut-out Thai battle gear. And the show wasn't even open to the public!

With that grandiosity in mind, we weren't surprised to see celebrities and VIPs queue outside The Fort's NBC Tent, chatting while waiting for the show to begin. We spotted former Miss Universe Margie Moran-Floirendo with daughter Gaby in tow, glam queen Baby Arenas, actress Boots Anson Roa, former balladeer Anthony Castelo, *Mareng* Winnie Monsod (who was there for her son, Ian, who was the show's musical director), among others, in the full-packed house.

### Sprightly dancers

Directed by dance impressario Douglas Nierras, the show ran MTV-style in fast-forward swiftness. We were pleasantly surprised to see Para Isidro (one of Douglas' protegees, back in town after "Miss Saigon" performances in Hong Kong and Singapore) among the lithe and sprightly dancers who weaved their bodies around curtains (and around one another) as pulleys and ropes raised them, flying like sprites in the air, or made them cartwheel and walk vertically on walls, like the French Cirque.

In classy post-vaudevillian fashion, actor/director/painter Leo Rialp came up with a savvy production design that made the stage look like a psychedelic, multi-colored baby grand piano, with its visible strings separating the live orchestra at the foreground from the center stage, the ebonies and ivories of the keys like as a looping, winding stairway.

In some other designer's hands, this could have looked tacky. But trust a true-blue artist like Rialp to make the big difference.

Just beside the stage wings were screen monitor-like designs with posts and platforms where performers popped in from below, or vanished from.

The show felt like a '50s musical with its own overture, and dazzling costumes that would rival the colors of the rainbow. We saw Cocoy change from a sparklingly white overcoat, to jackets and *americanas* of different cuts that would have shamed Dick Tracy's wardrobe.

But the busy costume changes were not limited to Cocoy. Even the dancers *and* singers (the Madrigal Singers sang uniformly, eerily, hauntingly—though the dancing by a couple of them left much to be desired) were kept busy with costumes in various shapes and sizes.

### Repertoire

In the repertoire, there was something for everybody. From Phil Collins pop, Cocoy would simply take off a costume piece and go straight to "I'm Not in Love," or Tina Turner's "What's Love Got to Do With It." Then, he'd get the fiftysomething set to clap as he dished out a Supremes medley ("Ain't No Mountain High Enough," "Where Did Our Love Go," "You Can't Hurry Love," "Stop! In the Name of Love"), or sang David Pomeranz's "Got to Believe in Magic" with his niece, Denise.

There were showtunes ("I've Never Been in Love Before"), standards ("What Now My Love," "If We Only Have Love")and OPM ("Paano," Dulce's, not Gary Valenciano's).

If you liked his Spanish songs from his recent recording, "Te Quiero," some of those songs were also in the concert, including a Spanish version of, hold your breath, "I Will Survive."

### Personal favorites

Our personal favorites, though, were his version of the French classic, "La Vie en Rose," and his medley of songs by The Beatles, with hauntingly arranged harmonies that segued flowingly from one song to another: "Eleanor Rigby," "Golden Slumbers," "Here, There and Everywhere," "Fool on the Hill," "The Long and Winding Road" and the hypnotic "Because," in which you could only hear the melodic buzzing of the chorus underscoring Cocoy's vocals.

In between songs, he'd break into emotional spiels about his love and gratitude to his parents, or how some experiences had enriched or touched his life (including how, while doing the role of Ibarra in Cayabyab's "Noli", a young boy's curiosity fascinated him with his boundless energy and never-ending questions; the boy was Rico Yan, whose family was in the audience that night).

### Real treat

The real treat for the night was the appearance of the legendary Superstar, Nora Aunor, to sing with Cocoy their ode to teenage love, from their movie with pre-"Miami Vice" star Don Johnson, "Lollipops and Roses." That number kept us giggling incredulously, seeing the two in lovey-dovey poses, while a huge screen showed clips from the '70s fan pic, and hordes of fans screeched and screamed from out of nowhere. A top entertainment journalist beside us commented with much bemusement, *"Dumating siya?!"*

Nora then sang a medley of beautiful Filipino songs that showcased her legendary singing voice: "Ikaw/Ikaw ang Lahat sa Akin/ Ikaw Lamang ang Mamahalin," thankfully, without the annoying vocal affectation that she has been known for of late.

Watching Cocoy perform draws out a spectator's energy. One could only wish he would come out of his shell more often and do Filipino stage productions that would surely benefit from his vast experience as a performer.

On our way out, we were deep in thought, searching for the right word to describe his performance that night. It was a good thing we bumped into theater actress Tami Monsod, who found us our adjective: *"effusive!"*

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## *NBC . . .*

From page C1

New York on April 30, 1939. President Franklin D. Roosevelt was shown arriving and delivering the opening address, thus becoming the first sitting president to appear on TV.

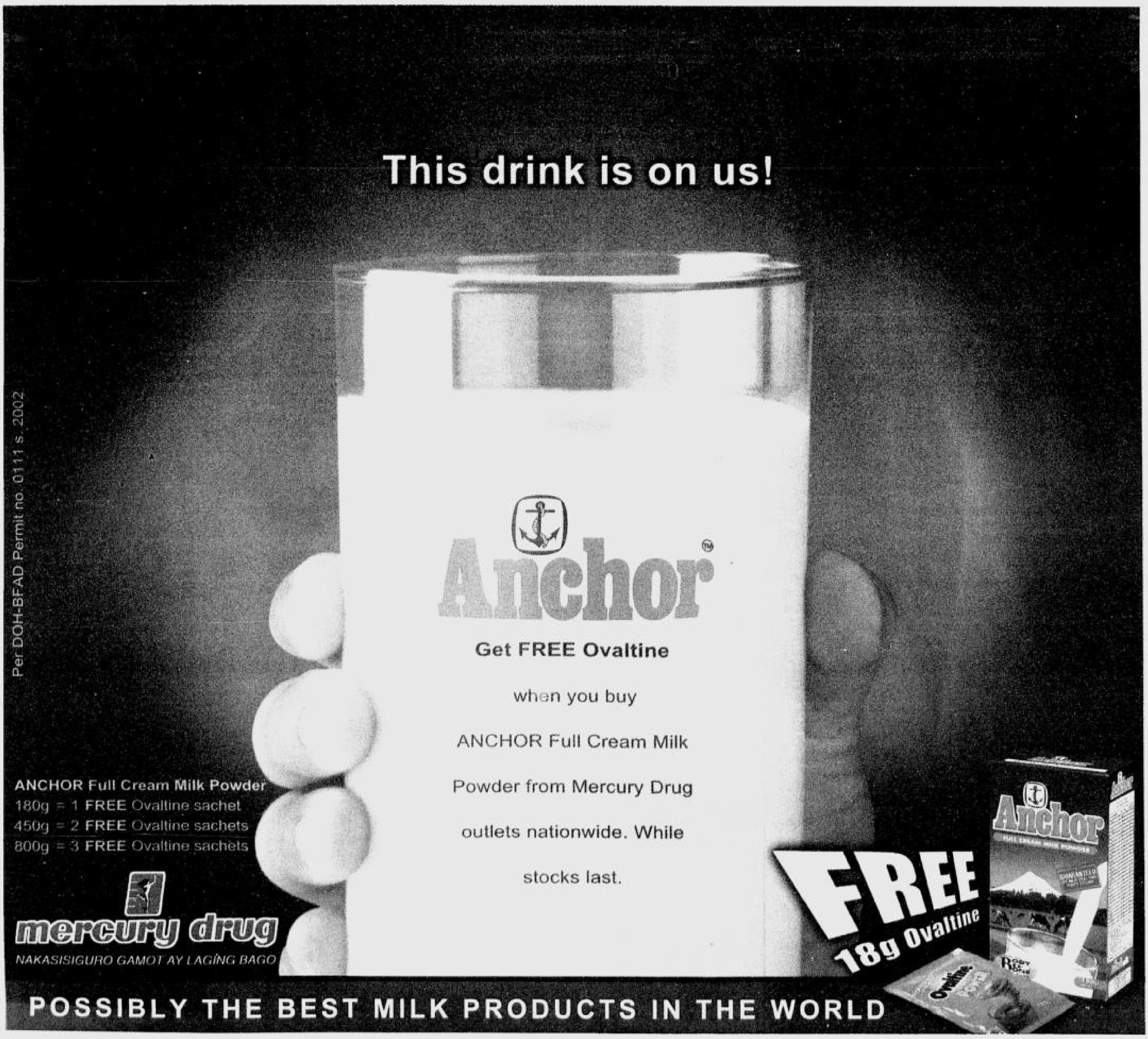
But it was not until after World War Two, in 1946, that NBC established the first permanent television network—its Atlantic Coast four-city hookup, airing "Hour Glass" as the first regularly scheduled network TV show.

And it was not until 1948, with the debut of Milton Berle's "Texaco Star Theater," that America saw its first runaway hit. The rest, as they say, is history.

NBC is a unit of General Electric Co. *Reuters*

**FOX.** One of the anniversary special's hosts.

**SEINFELD.** His sitcom was one of NBC's biggest hits.



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# Memories of a grandfather and actor who could have been president of the Philippines

**By Behn Cervantes**

THERE is one other actor who could have been president of the Philippines—in 1963, before Joseph Ejercito Estrada became a "poor man's" winner in 1998. In all likelihood, had the actor run then he would have won the elections hands down, so popular a screen idol and so established was he in the consciousness of the public.

### Accolades

He had won major acting accolades and developed a grand persona for himself off and on the screen.

His political track record was nothing to scoff at, either. The actor had already won a senatorial seat with ease. It was possible for him to become president, indeed.

He stood tall, was handsome and had a streak of white hair properly dyed for photogenic purposes. The packaging presented to the adulating public was that of the stereotype great politician. From a cinematic point of view he was without a doubt the idealized elder *politico* in looks, manner and dress.

He was the great Rogelio dela Rosa, the Philippines' Clark Gable. He belonged to that period when movie stars were classically handsome and always fashionably dressed.

He was at home in an *americana*, a *barong* or a simple *camisa*. His voice was deep and smoother than most. Yes, Roger (as his fans fondly called him) was a gentleman in every way. The actor had manifest elan that was impressive to behold.

### Epitome

Rogelio was the epitome of the gentleman actor for decades. On his reputation did the likes of Erap Estrada found their political careers. In fact, Estrada had him for his role model of an actor-turned-politician. If Roger almost made it in the early '60s, why couldn't the colorful mayor of San Juan, with the help of media and the adulation of a nation of fans, follow in his footsteps?

When Rogelio dela Rosa entered the world of politics, his movie career had peaked. The decision to offer his life for "public service" was truly astute. After all, he was a well-loved actor, and he had already developed the right political and social contacts. How better to serve the country after having entertained and inspired so many loyal movie fans?

I had a classmate in La Salle when I was in grade school. He carried the name Jose dela Rosa. Naturally, he brought to mind the famous movie actor but he never mentioned Rogelio as a relation, so no one bothered to ask him about it.

### Family

Not until one Sunday magazine featured the actor's family in their Baguio home. Lo and behold, there was Joe. Someone said that he was the son by the first wife, a Lolita Bayot from far-off Masbate.

In the summer of 1998, my friend Bro. Ramon Coronel asked me to teach in St. Louis University. I promptly accepted the offer since it was a fine respite away from Manila's infernal heat. Besides, I could reach more young students outside the capital region, a personal outreach program I thought I should go into.

There was one particularly talented student in my class. He spoke English with great ease (having studied in Los Angeles for a while) and had martial arts background. He stood and moved well. Furthermore, when he did a diagnostic scene, he exhibited great intensity and focus in the delineation of the dramatic scene. I was impressed.

Mon said that the young man, Noel, was the grandson of the great Rogelio. I was taken aback when the boy told me his father was Joe, my grade school classmate. What a small world this is, indeed.

### Stories

I wanted to know what he remembered of his *lolo*. Not much, he said. However, he lived with his *lola* Lolita. What stories did she share about his *lolo*, I wondered? He called for some academic advice the very day I lost my assistant for a workshop in Masbate.

It was serendipity. I asked him if he could take over as my assistant. He said he could arrange his schedule, go to Masbate with me, and finally see the ancestral home of his *lola*. This gave me the chance to ask him about his famous *lolo*, Rogelio dela Rosa.

"I remember he was big. He was always without a shirt when he was at home. He had big hands and white hair—but he wasn't bald. He always spoke Spanish at home. I think I saw him only three times. We didn't have a grandson-grandfather relationship."

What a pity, I thought. Noel could be a wealth of information, but he didn't have much. Did his father ever talk about Rogelio? "Well, he told me that his dad didn't like socializing after a shoot. He went home and attended to his family and private life. I think my father took after him, since he too doesn't care much for partying and the like."

### Siblings

And his grandma, did she ever talk about Rogelio? "Not much, really. I don't know the other Dela Rosa siblings very well. We are not in contact."

What a pity, I thought—so much heritage forgotten and practically ignored. "I didn't realize how big he was until Prof. Tony Mabesa, who didn't know I was his grandson, informed our class that his favorite actor was Rogelio dela Rosa. Wow, I thought. He was big!"

Noel now seems eager to find out more about his grandfather, but he finds the task awesome. There is so much to learn about his grandfather, after all.

Today's public also has much to recall about the first gentleman star who stood tall as an actor and as a senator, a fine role model for all actors and public servants to this day.

**DELA ROSA.** A fine role model for actors and public servants.

# Introducing Pinoy cuisine to Canadians

**WORD OF MOUTH**

*Sandy Daza*

VANCOUVER, Canada—The Food Network here is a joy to watch. There are shows that have become more entertainment than educational; another features food finds; others show how products like drinks, ice cream or chocolates are made, or feature upscale restaurants in the process of building up to opening day. Most of the cooking done in a show on country cuisine is street food. We should do something like this in the Philippines.

### Interpretation

One of my favorite programs is Martin Yan's. He goes on food adventures all over China, and the second part of the show is done in his kitchen and focuses on his interpretation of the dishes he saw. Interesting!

Another is Bobby Flay's "Hot Off The Grill." He cooks for a group of friends and asks them to assist in the cooking. His recipes are continental, and quite interesting, too.

One of the most entertaining shows is "Iron Chef". This is a Japanese cooking competition where the organizer of the event has three Iron Chefs, each specializing in Chinese, Japanese and French cuisines. Each show features top chefs from top restaurants in Japan.

It is a one-on-one competition where the contestants do not know what the ingredients will be. They have to prepare a soup, an appetizer, a main dish and a dessert. There are four who sit on the panel of judges. There have been occasions when the Iron Chefs were beaten.

Emeril Lagasse is the most popular. He makes cooking truly interesting. His viewers love him!

### Popular

Asian cuisine is quite popular here. Japanese, Chinese, Vietnamese and Thai dishes are well-liked. But what about Pinoy?

I hope we can do something like the "My Country, My Cuisine" show. We can probably feature, Bacolod's chicken *Inasal*, Cebu *lechon*, and maybe Ilocos *empanada*. I strongly believe this could be an attraction to many prospective tourists. The show "Lakbay TV" could do wonders for the country's image. Our nation needs a little push for foreign travelers via their palate. Calling Tourism Secretary Gordon.

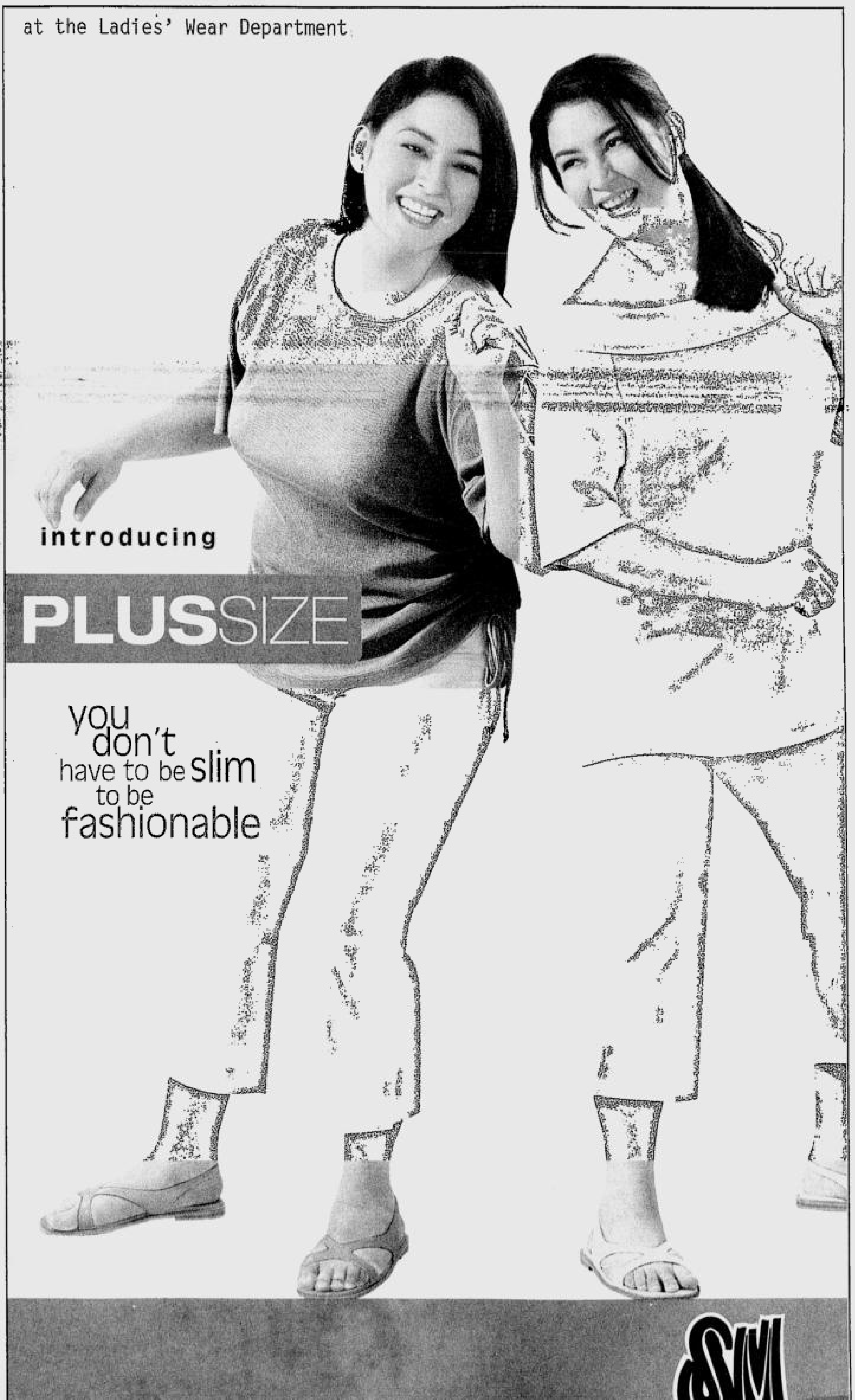
### Cooking show

This April, I started a Pinoy cooking show here in Vancouver, in the British Columbia area. I have been featuring simple, easy-to-find ingredients and delicious recipes. These dishes should appeal to the local palate. My simple dream is to introduce Philippine cuisine to Canadians.

My first feature was on *Pinaupuang Manok* and a crispy crab *pancit*. I pray that this will help promote our cuisine in the West. I strongly believe our food could give the other Asian cuisines a good run for their money.

We need a good representation of our cuisine here. The popular restaurants here are Galing-Galing and Goldilocks. One day, I hope we can have a fine dining representation of our cuisine, too.

Happy eating!



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# Focus on the inscrutable and mysterious Keanu Reeves

**SHOW BIZ Q & A**

*Rito P. Asilo*

He was paid $10 M to do "Matrix," and $15 M for "Matrix Reloaded." As an actor, he is known for his deadpan delivery. As for his personal affairs, they are not without their tragic twists

HE IS one of Hollywood's biggest mysteries. His performances may be Razzie favorites, his personal life is eternally tweaked and twisted by the press and the paparazzi, but if there's one thing undeniable about Keanu, it is his movie star aura.

He may not have Al Pacino's intensity, Emma Thompson's range and Meryl Streep's depth and versatility, but he sure has the commercial appeal these fantastic actors can't get close to.

Write us: Philippine Daily Inquirer, Saturday Special section, Show biz Q&A, Chino Roces ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo sts., Makati City.

This week's Q and A:

**"I am an avid fan of Keanu Reeves. Please tell me everything about him—bio, website, educational and romantic status, etc. Why are the rumors that he is gay persistent? What are his upcoming movies?"—*Imelda Ramos, Paombong, Bulacan.***

Keanu Charles Reeves has appeared in more than 50 films so far, including "Dangerous Liaisons," "Bram Stoker's Dracula," "Much Ado About Nothing," "Little Buddha," "Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure," "Speed," "Matrix," and "My Own Private Idaho," since he debuted in 1985's "One Step Away."

Born on Sept 2, 1964 in Beirut, Lebanon to a Chinese-Hawaiian father (a geologist who served time in prison for two years of a 10-year sentence for selling heroin at the Hilo Airport in 1992, who abandoned the family when Keanu was still very young) and an English mother (a costume designer for rock acts, like Alice Cooper), the 6'1" lefty is a constant entry in "Most Beautiful People" lists. He has two sisters, Karina and Kim.

In Hawaiian, "Keanu" means "cool breeze over the mountains." He was an MVP on his high school hockey team (where he gained the monicker, "The Wall"). He is afraid of the dark, loves ballroom dancing, and owns a 1974 850cc Norton Combat Commando motorcycle. He took on hobbies, horseback riding and surfing, after his movie roles required him to learn them.

He dropped out of high school at 17 to become an actor, a career option he discovered at age 15 after doing "Romeo and Juliet" in 10th grade. He studied acting at the Toronto High School for the Performing Arts, and Hedgerow Theater.

In 1986, he drove all the way from Toronto, Canada to L.A. to pursue acting, carrying only $3,000 in an old Volvo. He still maintains a Canadian passport and citizenship and is currently filming back-to-back the two sequels of "The Matrix"—"Matrix Reloaded" and "The Matrix Revolutions."

He was paid $10 M to do "Matrix," and $15 M for "Matrix Reloaded." As an actor, he is known for his deadpan delivery, and for his reputation as an oaf.

Keanu also heads a rock band, Dogstar, a post-grunge rock trio, in which he plays bass guitar with vocalist/guitarist Bret Domrose and drummer Rob Mailhouse.

The group covered The Carpenters' classic "Superstar" in one of their two albums—1996's "Our Little Visionary" and 2000's "Happy Ending." While critics describe the group as "average," they acknowledge that Keanu is a more than competent bassist.

He had dated Amanda de Cadenet (ex-wife of Duran Duran's John Taylor), Carrie Anne Moss and Jennifer Syme. His personal affairs are not without their tragic twists. Around Christmas '99, the baby girl he was expecting with girlfriend Jennifer was stillborn, just a few weeks shy of the actual delivery date. They would have named her Eva Archer Syme Reeves.

Shortly thereafter, he broke up with Syme. A year later, in April 2001, Syme's car crashed into three parked vehicles and she died instantly.

The previous story *may* debunk rumors about his sexuality, but these actually started early on in his career—when he acted in one of his earliest stage performances, 1984's "Wolfboy." This was further fanned by his edgy *and* "swishy" portrayals in, first, the violent film, "River's Edge" and then in "My Own Private Idaho," his movie with River Phoenix, directed by Gus Van Sant.

Another major rumor was that he was said to have "married" a hugely popular entertainment guru, although he denies having ever met the guy! In "Interview" magazine, he said he *is* straight.

In "Vanity Fair," he says, "There's nothing wrong with being gay, so to deny it is to make a judgment." Lastly, in "USA Today," he swears, "I'm not involved in those dynamics, and I have no point of view on it."

**A1. Third album due on May 27.**

**REEVES. Started acting at 15.**

There really is *no* official Keanu website, but we suggest you log-on, and maybe send your letter, to Dogstar's "official" website, www.dogstaronline.com, or try the unofficial www.keanuweb.com.

**"What is the title of A1's third album? When will it be released? Any chance of a Philippine visit soon?"—*Aileen Faye Esperanza, Palmera Homes, Taytay, Rizal.***

The third album's release in the international market is scheduled on May 27. After the recent release of its carrier single, "Caught in the Middle," the second single, "Make It Good," will be out on May 13. Sorry, no Philippine visit just yet.

As for the album's title, Ben Adams has this to say: "You know, we have written 60 songs for this album, but we haven't come up with a good album title yet." But they will have to come up with one soon *before* the new album comes out!

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# Wheatgrass nurtures and heals

**LOTUS POND**

*R. Valencia and S. Bismark*

A LOT of us often think of grass as being used to simply cover golf courses and gardens. But how about considering grass as your daily source of nutritious juice and cosmetic supplement?

I am specifically referring to that wonderful plant, the wheatgrass, which has been called an ancient source of both nurturing and healing powers.

### Benefits

In the book "Wheatgrass: Superfood for a New Millennium," Li Smith enumerates the amazing benefits derived from drinking wheatgrass juice and using its pulp for rejuvenating the skin, gums, etc. Here are some enlightening excerpts:

"Anti-oxidant activity increases in wheat sprouts and young grass as well: these include traces of beta-carotine (provitamin A), vitamin C and E. Provitamin A, supplied in wheatgrass juice, is about as much as in dark green varieties of lettuce . . . Vitamin C value in wheatgrass increases by 600 percent during the first few days of germination . . .

"Alkaline minerals, calcium and potassium are produced during this time, which helps ensure that wheatgrass is an alkaline-forming food. The young, healthy grass also includes minerals such as zinc, boron, molybdenum, and magnesium.

"In four days of sprouting, the Vitamin E content of wheat increases 300 percent. Some of the Vitamin B-complex components increase from 20 percent to 600 percent. The formation of amino acids, chlorophyll and enzymes also occurs during the early life of the wheat plant."

### Enzymes

Enzymes are easily destroyed by heat so we don't get them from highly processed, packaged and cooked food. Wheatgrass, however, contains a high level of enzymes. These enzymes work in the following ways: they enrich and cleanse the blood, remove wastes, attack viruses and enhance digestion.

And when it comes to amino acids, wheatgrass on the eighth day of growth has been discovered to contain all eight essential and 17 other important amino acids used by the body for the building of muscles, organs and blood.

As for the chlorophyll, Smith states, "Chlorophyll constitutes 70 percent of the solute in wheatgrass and has been extensively tested for extraordinary healing powers. Doctors at Temple University in Philadelphia discovered that the green solution seemed to thicken and strengthen the cell wall of animals. Wheatgrass pulp, which is the residue after juicing, can be used as a topical application.

"As a holistic wheatgrass practitioner, I have found the pulp beneficial for tightening older skin and giving it a glow. Given time, it is effective in helping to remove freckles, wrinkles and other blemishes. The pulp also contains many excellent anti-radiation and anti-inflammatory properties.

### Skin conditions

"In my many years of experience with wheatgrass, I have witnessed the dramatic healing of many skin conditions including the soothing and healing of sunburn, radiated skin, dry skin conditions and the healing of wounds. It also aids the healing of gum problems (pyorrhea) by stimulating and regenerating diseased tissue. However, it is not advisable to try this after surgery when it could stimulate the blood flow into the area."

The American Journal of Surgery (1940) reports, "1200 cases, ranging from deep internal infections such as brain ulcer and peritonitis to skin disorders, had been treated using chlorophyll and were discharged as cured."

Smith further explains that chlorophyll has been proven therapeutically effective for problems such as sinusitis, osteomyelitis, pyorrhea, peritonitis and gastric ulcers, as well as chronic diseases such as anemia, arteriosclerosis, etc.

One additional benefit of taking wheatgrass juice is that it works to protect the body from pollution.

Last but not least, when it comes to detoxification and elimination, Smith explains, "Wheatgrass effectively assists in the process of waste elimination, replenishing micro-nutrients which play a role in neutralizing the released poison."

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## YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM MAY 11—MAY 17

| CH | 2 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 13 | 23 | 29 | E! 31 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | 5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan<br>7:00 Arriba, Arriba<br>8:00 Mary D' Potter<br>9:00 Da Pilya en Da Pilot<br>10:00 Kakasa Ka Ba?<br>10:30 Sapul Kayo Dyan<br>11:00 "F"<br>11:30 Sports Unlimited | 6:00 MBA<br>11:00 Business and Leisure | 6:30 Wing Commander<br>7:00 Sailormoon Sailor Stars<br>7:30 Wheel of Fortune<br>8:00 Celebrity Family Feud<br>8:30 Wow Mali<br>9:30 Saturday Night Specials *Space Balls* | 5:30 Hunter X Hunter<br>6:00 Imbestigador<br>7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap<br>8:00 Kakabakaba<br>9:00 Pinoy Blockbuster<br>11:00 Master Showman Presents | 6:00 Entertainment Tonite<br>6:30 Hot Tickets<br>7:00 Largo<br>8:00 7 Days<br>9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse *Gawad Urian* | 8:00 Star For a Night<br>9:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?<br>10:00 Viva Box Office<br>11:00 IBC Etcetera | 6:00 Travel Time<br>6:30 Digital Tour<br>7:00 Explorer<br>7:30 Early Edition<br>8:30 Gilmore Girls<br>9:30 Studio 23 Presents | 3:00 Q Show Case<br>7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special<br>9:00 Oras ng Katotohanan<br>9:30 Armor of God<br>10:00 Oh Tokyo<br>11:00 Pinoy Wrestling | 6:00 CBS Evening News<br>6:30 E! Coming Attractions<br>7:00 Extreme Close-Up *Ed Burns*<br>7:30 Nearly Famous<br>8:00 E! True Hollywood Story *The Last Days of Judy Garland*<br>10:00 David Letterman |
|  | 5:30 Sharon<br>7:00 Digimon<br>7:30 Wansapanataym<br>9:00 Home Along Da Riles<br>9:30 ABS-CBN Presents<br>11:30 Off The Record<br>12:00 The Weekend News | 6:00 Fox News<br>9:00 NBA<br>11:30 Unlimited Diving | 6:00 Zorro<br>6:30 Guyferd<br>7:00 Price Is Right<br>8:00 Sing-Galing<br>9:00 The Big Night *Cats* | 5:30 Partners Mel and Jay<br>7:00 K!<br>8:00 Daddy Di Do Du<br>9:00 Sunday Night Box Office<br>11:00 Cha-Cha Lazaro Presents | 6:00 Entertainment This Weekend<br>7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not<br>8:00 Match TV<br>9:00 Sunday's Big Event *Stargate*<br>11:00 Sunday Report | 4:00 PBA Game 1<br>6:00 PBA Game 2<br>8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?<br>9:00 Sinemaks | 6:00 Rugrats<br>6:30 Starship Troopers<br>7:00 Batman Beyond<br>7:30 Futurama<br>8:00 Grosse Pointe<br>8:30 Veronica's Closet<br>9:00 Will & Grace<br>9:30 Temptation Island<br>10:30 Twilight Zone<br>11:00 News Central | 5:00 Quartermaster Window Shop<br>7:00 Sunday Mini-Series<br>8:00 Oh Tokyo<br>9:00 Sunday Night Movies<br>11:00 Bikini Open | 6:00 CBS Evening News<br>6:30 E! News Live<br>7:00 E! Summer Escape *Sizzling 15 2002*<br>8:00 Rank: *Top 20 Entertainers of 2001*<br>9:00 Revealed w/ Jules Asner *Drew Barrymore*<br>10:00 Movies on E! *Buck and The Preacher* |
|  | 6:00 TV Patrol<br>7:00 Game K N B?<br>7:30 Pangako sa 'Yo<br>8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Ingatan Ka<br>8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan<br>9:00 FPJ Action Cinema<br>10:30 Headlines<br>11:00 The Correspondents | 6:00 Fox News<br>8:00 Tele-Dyaryo<br>10:00 2002 PBL Chairman's Cup | 6:00 Batang-Batita<br>6:30 F<br>7:00 Mahha Go Go Go<br>7:30 Wheel Of Fortune<br>8:00 Family Feud<br>8:30 Poltergeist: The Legacy<br>9:30 Trabaho Lang<br>10:00 The Big News | 6:00 Saksi<br>6:30 Marimar<br>7:00 Monica Brava<br>7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga<br>8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin<br>8:30 Kung Mawawala Ka<br>9:00 GMA's Best<br>10:30 Front Page<br>11:00 I-Witness | 5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita<br>6:00 Sin Ti<br>6:30 Real TV<br>7:00 World's Most Amazing Videos<br>8:00 Jag<br>9:00 Sons of Thunder<br>10:00 Newswatch Now<br>10:30 Entertainment Tonight<br>11:00 Sex & The City | 6:00 Viva's Hot Hits<br>8:00 Crayon Shin Chan<br>8:30 Kurochan<br>9:00 The Weakest Link<br>10:00 Carlia de Angel<br>10:30 Por Un Beso<br>11:00 News | 5:00 Beat UK<br>6:30 Jenny Jones<br>7:30 Hidden Camera<br>8:00 Dark Angel<br>9:00 Charmed<br>10:00 News Central<br>10:30 Points of View<br>11:30 Pop My MYX | 4:30 Quartermaster<br>6:30 Q Showcase<br>7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan<br>8:00 Q Showcase<br>9:00 Ang Dating Daan<br>10:00 Q Showcase | 6:00 CBS Evening News<br>6:30 E! News Live<br>7:00 Celebrity Adventures *Papua New Guinea*<br>8:00 E! True Hollywood Story<br>9:00 E! News Live<br>9:30 Talk Soup<br>10:00 Best of Late Show<br>11:00 Wild on *Champs-Elysee* |
|  | 6:00 TV Patrol<br>7:00 Game K N B?<br>7:30 Pangako sa 'Yo<br>8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Ingatan Ka<br>8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan<br>9:00 Oka Tokat<br>9:30 Attagirl<br>10:30 Headlines<br>11:00 Pinoi | 6:00 Fox News<br>8:00 Tele-Dyaryo<br>10:00 Pulsong Masa<br>11:00 Auto Focus | 6:00 Batang-Batita<br>6:30 Dragon League<br>7:00 2 Years Vacation w/ Dinosaurs<br>7:30 Wheel of Fortune<br>8:00 Family Feud<br>8:30 E.R.<br>9:30 Urban Doktor<br>10:00 The Big News<br>10:00 Mad TV | 6:00 Saksi<br>6:30 Marimar<br>7:00 Monica Brava<br>7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga<br>8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin<br>8:30 Kung Mawawala Ka<br>9:00 Kool Ka Lang<br>10:30 Front Page<br>11:00 The Probe Team | 5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita<br>6:00 Sin Ti<br>6:30 Real TV<br>7:00 Ed<br>8:00 Ally McBeal<br>9:00 The Practice<br>10:00 Newswatch Now<br>10:30 Entertainment Tonight<br>11:30 NBI Files | 6:00 PBA Games<br>8:00 PBA Games<br>10:00 The Weakest Link<br>11:00 News | 5:30 Beat UK<br>6:30 Jenny Jones<br>7:30 Popular<br>8:30 Angel<br>9:30 Just Shoot Me<br>10:00 News Central<br>10:30 Oprah<br>11:30 Pop My MYX | 4:30 Quartermaster<br>6:30 Q Showcase<br>7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan<br>8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live) | 6:00 CBS Evening News<br>6:30 E! News Live<br>7:00 Extreme Close-Up *Kevin Kline*<br>7:30 Mysteries & Scandals<br>8:00 E! True Hollywood Story<br>9:00 E! News Live<br>9:30 Talk Soup<br>10:00 David Letterman<br>11:00 Wild on *Carnival* |
|  | 6:00 TV Patrol<br>7:00 Game K N B?<br>7:30 Pangako sa 'Yo<br>8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Ingatan Ka<br>8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan<br>9:00 Whattamen<br>9:30 Klasmeyts<br>10:30 Headlines<br>11:00 Private Conversation | 4:00 2002 PBL Chairman's Cup<br>6:00 Fox News<br>8:00 Tele-Dyaryo<br>10:00 2002 PBL Chairman's Cup | 6:00 Batang-Batita<br>6:30 Pygmalio<br>7:00 Time Quest<br>7:30 Wheel of Fortune<br>8:00 Family Feud<br>8:30 Friends<br>9:00 That '70s Show<br>9:30 Planet X<br>10:00 The Big News<br>10:30 Philippines Most Wanted | 6:00 Saksi<br>6:30 Marimar<br>7:00 Monica Brava<br>7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga<br>8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin<br>8:30 Kung Mawawala Ka<br>9:00 Beh Bote Nga<br>10:30 Front Page<br>11:30 Jessica Soho Reports | 5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita<br>6:00 Sin Ti<br>6:30 Real TV<br>7:00 Higher Ground<br>8:00 Roswell<br>9:00 Fugitive<br>10:00 Newswatch Now<br>10:30 Entertainment Tonight<br>11:00 Wrestling | 7:00 Kagat ng Dilim<br>8:00 Crayon Shin Chan<br>8:30 Kurochan<br>9:00 The Weakest Link<br>10:00 Carlia de Angel<br>10:30 Por Un Beso<br>11:00 News | 5:30 Behind The Music<br>6:30 Jenny Jones<br>7:30 Scariest Places on Earth<br>8:30 Game Plan<br>9:00 The District<br>10:00 News Central<br>10:30 Oprah<br>11:30 Pop My MYX | 4:30 Quartermaster<br>6:30 Q Showcase<br>7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan<br>8:00 Q Showcase<br>9:00 Ang Dating Daan<br>10:00 Q Showcase | 6:00 CBS Evening News<br>6:30 E! News Live<br>7:00 Behind The Scenes<br>7:30 Mysteries & Scandals<br>8:00 E! True Hollywood Story<br>9:00 E! News Live<br>9:30 Talk Soup<br>10:00 David Letterman<br>11:00 Wild On *Thailand* |
|  | 6:00 TV Patrol<br>7:00 Game K N B?<br>7:30 Pangako sa 'Yo<br>8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Ingatan Ka<br>8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan<br>9:00 Maalaala Mo Kaya<br>10:30 Headlines<br>11:00 Isyu 101 | 6:00 Concert At The Park<br>7:00 Fox News<br>8:00 Tele-Dyaryo<br>10:00 NBA | 6:00 Batang-Batita<br>6:30 Shulato<br>7:00 Fancy Lala<br>7:30 Wheel of Fortune<br>8:00 Family Feud<br>8:30 Guinness World Records<br>9:30 The Exchange<br>10:00 The Big News<br>10:30 By Request *Alanis Morissette/Jewel* | 6:00 Saksi<br>6:30 Marimar<br>7:00 Monica Brava<br>7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga<br>8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin<br>8:30 Kung Mawawala Ka<br>9:00 Kasangga<br>10:30 Front Page<br>11:00 Debate with Mare at Pare | 5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita<br>6:00 Sin Ti<br>6:30 Real TV<br>7:00 Clueless<br>7:30 Sister, Sister<br>8:00 Felicity<br>9:00 Once and Again<br>10:00 Newswatch Now<br>10:30 Entertainment Tonight | 6:00 PBA Games<br>8:00 PBA Games<br>10:00 Who Wants To Be a Millionaire<br>11:00 News | 5:30 MYX Concerts<br>6:30 Jenny Jones<br>7:30 Barkada Nights<br>9:30 Night Visions<br>10:00 News Central<br>10:30 Oprah<br>11:30 Pop My MYX | 4:30 Quartermaster<br>6:30 Q Showcase<br>7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan<br>8:00 Q Showcase<br>9:00 Ang Dating Daan<br>10:00 Q Showcase | 6:00 CBS Evening News<br>6:30 E! News Live<br>7:00 Extreme Close-Up *Hugh Jackman*<br>8:00 Mysteries & Scandals<br>8:00 E! True Hollywood Story<br>9:00 E! News Live<br>9:30 Talk Soup<br>10:00 David Letterman<br>11:00 Wild On |
|  | 6:00 TV Patrol<br>7:00 Game K N B?<br>7:30 Pangako sa 'Yo<br>8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Ingatan Ka<br>8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan<br>9:00 Star Cinema Presents<br>10:30 Headlines<br>11:00 True Crime | 4:00 2002 PBL Chairman's Cup<br>6:00 Paco Park Presents<br>7:00 Fox News<br>8:00 Tele-Dyaryo<br>10:00 2002 PBL Chairman's Cup | 6:00 Batang-Batita<br>6:30 Lazer Patrol<br>7:00 Starcom<br>7:30 Wheel Of Fortune<br>8:00 Family Feud<br>8:30 Ispup<br>9:30 On-Air<br>10:00 The Big News<br>10:30 Friday Box Office *Franco* | 6:00 Saksi<br>6:30 Marimar<br>7:00 Monica Brava<br>7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga<br>8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin<br>8:30 Kung Mawawala Ka<br>9:00 Bubble Gang<br>10:30 Front Page<br>11:00 Emergency | 5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita<br>6:00 Sin Ti<br>6:30 Real TV<br>7:00 That's Life<br>8:00 Malcolm in the Middle<br>8:30 Dharma & Greg<br>9:00 NYPD Blue<br>10:00 Newswatch Now<br>10:30 TV Greats on Friday | 8:00 Crayon Shin Chan<br>8:30 Kurochan<br>9:00 Who Wants to Be a Millionaire<br>10:00 Carlia de Angel<br>10:30 Por Un Beso<br>11:00 News | 5:30 Halo-Halo<br>6:30 Jenny Jones<br>7:30 Exposed<br>8:30 Survivor<br>9:30 Oh Grow Up!<br>10:00 News Central<br>10:30 Oprah<br>11:30 Pop My MYX | 4:30 Quartermaster<br>6:30 Q Showcase<br>7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan<br>8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live) | 6:00 CBS Evening News<br>6:30 E! News Live<br>7:00 Behind The Scenes *Panic Room*<br>7:30 Mysteries & Scandals<br>8:00 E! True Hollywood Story<br>9:00 E! News Live<br>9:30 Talk Soup<br>10:00 David Letterman<br>11:00 Wild On *Spring Break 2001* |

# 'Star Wars Celebration II' welcomes 25,000 devoted fans

**By Ryan J. Lenz**

INDIANAPOLIS—There were more fans than you could shake a plastic light saber at.

Nearly 25,000 devotees of a 25-year-old celestial saga—some dressed as Jedi knights, Ewoks and Wookies—gathered for "Star Wars Celebration II" in eager anticipation of "Star Wars: "Episode II—Attack of the Clones," which opens May 16.

But some were worried they will leave theaters unsatisfied.

### Packed convention center

Dressed in the flowing brown hooded-cape of a Jedi, Jesse Short stood looking over a packed convention center and said he was disappointed with "Star Wars: Episode I-The Phantom Menace," and hopes director George Lucas returns to the magic of the original trilogy.

"There's a little bit of me that's worried about the film," said Short, 25, from Pennsylvania. "If I go in there and am disappointed again, I'll say, 'George, you've got one more shot.'"

"Episode II" is the story of Count Dooku, a rebel Jedi who creates an army of clones to pit them against the Federation. The film tells the events that lead young Anakin Skywalker to the dark side of the Force, where he later becomes Darth Vader.

### Something for everyone

Judging from those in attendance—businessmen, parents, teachers and teen-agers with purple hair—the "Star Wars" films have something for everyone.

"I'll tell you what, this is going to be probably the definitive time for 'Star Wars' fans. With what I've seen, and what fans are going to see, they're going be blown away," said Ron Mitchell, president of the Indy Knights, an Indianapolis fan club whose motto is "Hoosier Daddy, Luke?"

STAR WARS fans wait in line for the opening of the second day of 'Star Wars Celebration II.' AP

Fans began lining up to get into the convention center at 4 a.m. Friday last week, six hours before the doors opened.

Scott Will, 32, said he loved the movies as a child and wonders if fans have forgotten the excitement the first films introduced.

"I think that a lot of people need to remember seeing 'Star Wars' for the first time when they were 6," said Will, of St. Petersburg, Florida. "They're looking at it from a different perspective and they forget what they just accepted as fact when they were kids."

Some fans have never forgotten.

Bill Varner and his fiancee Cheryle Kilroy are eagerly anticipating the next film—and their upcoming wedding, which will have a "Star Wars" theme.

"It's George's vision that got us into it in '77," Varner said. "It's pretty much a way of life for me." ***AP***

**HILARY Gillespie of Toronto, Canada, poses in a photo prop as her character Aurra Sing at 'Star Wars Celebration II.'**

# Disney/Pixar venture unveils three new potential hits

**By Bob Tourtellotte**

LOS ANGELES—The Walt Disney Co. on Sunday unveiled three new computer animated films in its venture with Pixar Animation Studios Inc., who both combined for 2001 hit "Monsters Inc.," the second-highest grossing animated movie ever with $504 million in global ticket sales.

Pixar, which makes its home in the San Francisco Bay Area and is headed by Apple Computer Inc. chief Steven Jobs, makes the movies and Burbank, California-based Disney markets and distributes them.

### Concern

The plans should soothe recent concern on Wall Street over the ongoing partnership, which started with 1995's "Toy Story" and has raked in $1.7 billion in global ticket sales through three subsequent films, "A Bug's Life," "Toy Story 2" and last November's "Monsters."

The most recent movie, a family film about a pair of ghastly-looking but fun-loving fellows who scare humans for a living, has amassed $253 million in domestic box office and $251 in international ticket sales after setting records in Japan, England, Mexico and Spain.

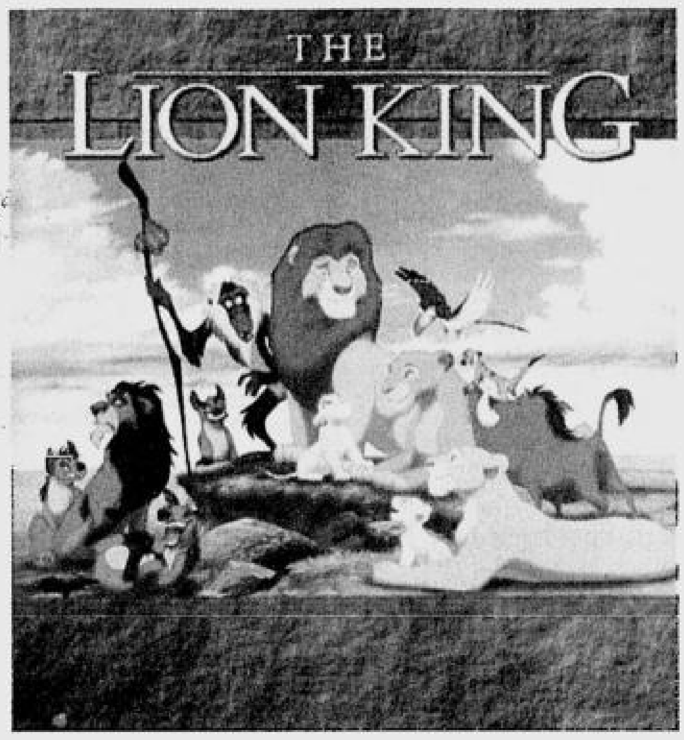
### Extraordinary success

"(It) has been an extraordinary success all over the world, and we are extremely proud of it," said Dick Cook, the recently appointed chairman of Walt Disney Studios.

"Monsters" is second in box office to another Disney animated hit "The Lion King," which generated $767 million in worldwide ticket sales following its release in 1994.

First up on the slate of new Disney/Pixar films is "Finding Nemo," an underwater adventure set for release next summer. It is being written and directed by Andrew Stanton, who was co-director and co-screenwriter of the 1998's "Bug's Life" and co-screenwriter on the "Toy Story" films.

In the 2004 holiday season, audiences will see "The Incredibles," an action-adventure comedy from director Brad Bird ("The Iron Giant"). It centers on a family of superheroes who save the world while living a quiet suburban life.



**ASIDE from raking it in at the box office, "The Lion King" spawned sales of toys, home videos and other merchandise.**

Finally, for the holidays in 2005, Pixar's two-time Academy Award-winning director John Lasseter will direct "Cars," a comedy featuring an assortment of cars as characters who get their kicks on the famous old Route 66.

### Franchise movies

Franchise movies like "Lion King" and what the Disney/Pixar films are becoming, earn untold millions of dollars in profits for media conglomerates like Disney. "The Lion King" spawned sales of toys, home videos and other merchandise. It brings people to Disney's theme parks, generates advertising revenues for Disney-owned TV networks, and it even spawned a Broadway play.

But "Lion King" and many Disney movies like it are in old-style, hand-painted animation, whereas the new computer animated films like those of the Disney/Pixar collaboration and 20th Century Fox's current hit, "Ice Age" are in the digital form that newer, younger audiences find highly appealing.

Disney made its own computer-animated movie, "Dinosaur" in 2000. It had a successful run at box offices, but was nowhere near the size of the Disney/Pixar films. So, Disney investors are anxious to see the collaboration continue.

Back in January, confusion arose among some investors over the length of the two companies' venture, prompting Jobs to issue a statement saying the two would combine for three more movies under their current working relationship, which is a straightforward 50/50 venture.

Sunday's announcement merely outlines the three new movies under the existing deal, and Disney executives declined to discuss any plans beyond the three. But until Sunday, details on the collaboration were sketchy.. ***Reuters***

# Cartoonists help less fortunate comic book writers and artists

**By Mike Branom**

ORLANDO, Florida—A weekend auction raised $45,000 to benefit a unique and needy group—now-elderly comic book artists and writers who live in poverty, with some unable to afford food, medical care or phone service.

### Low-wage obscurity

These writers and artists toiled in low-wage obscurity during the comic book industry's so-called Golden Age in the 1950s. As free-lancers, they were paid a penny a word or $5 a page, with no pensions or health benefits, while the publishers made millions.

Younger comics fans helped their predecessors at last Saturday's auction—held at Orlando MegaCon, one of the US Southeast's largest comic books conventions.

"Generally speaking, it takes comic artists a full day to draw a page, so that's working for $5 a day," said Jim McLauchlin, senior editor for the comics industry magazine, "Wizard."

"The most important people in our field are not doing very well today," said Maggie Thompson, editor of the Comics Buyer's Guide. "To honor our pioneers in a way that's more than 'Gee, you're a great guy—would you sign an autograph for me?' is a great thing."

Saturday's auction was sponsored by Actor (A Commitment to Our Roots), a nonprofit charity established by the comics industry.

"Pretty much every other professional organization has something like this," said McLauchlin, Actor's president. "Nothing like this has ever existed in the comic books business."

### Six artists

Los Angeles-based Actor has raised more than $145,000 in a little more than a year. About $20,000 has been distributed to the six artists that have accepted help.

The organization is actively seeking out aging cartoonists who may be in need of help.

Assistance has thus far ranged from helping one man with his mortgage payments to arranging the funeral for an artist whose family couldn't afford to properly bury him, McLauchlin said.

Actor also tries to arrange work for the older artists, so they will have a steady source of income.

Bill Messner-Loebs is one of the artists being helped by Actor.

Work dried up for him when the comic books' speculative bubble burst in the mid-1990s. His savings gone, Messner-Loebs was destitute and about to lose his home in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

But Actor came through with $11,000, saving his home. Even more, the organization also used its industry contacts to get him some work.

"I'm hoping when I'm back on my feet, I can contribute to Actor myself," said Messner-Loebs, 53.

### Signed manuscripts

The auction consisted of more than 100 items, including original art and signed manuscripts from artists and writers.

Serving as guest auctioneer was Kevin Smith, writer and director of such films as "Clerks" and "Chasing Amy." Smith is known for sprinkling his movies with comics references.

Famed Japanese artist Yoshitaka Amano, creator of the "Final Fantasy" series, donated the auction's top draw: the very first Elektra painting Amano ever did. The piece, which sold for $5,000, has only been seen as a promotional item for the "Elektra & Wolverine: The Redeemer" series. ***AP***

Levi's
What is your
RED
TAB?
straight

# DVD rentals increase for first quarter

**By Steve Gorman**

LOS ANGELES—DVD rentals in the US for the first quarter hit a record $633.7 million, more than double year-ago levels as the digital video format continued to gain in popularity against videocassettes, an industry trade group reported Tuesday.

While rentals of traditional VHS videocassettes continued to overshadow DVDs, grossing $1.5 billion in the first quarter, VHS saw its share of home video rentals decline from last year while DVD market share gained, according to the Video Software Dealers Association (VSDA).

VHS rentals dropped $400 million, or 22.3 percent, from last year's first-quarter gross of $1.9 billion.

### Net result

The net result was a 3.9 percent drop in combined video and DVD rentals overall, from $2.2 billion in the first quarter last year to $2.1 billion this year.

A spokeswoman for the VSDA, which monitors the home video rental market based on actual transactions, attributed the decline to a continued sluggish economy.

Still, the $633.7 million grossed by DVDs rentals alone during the most recent quarter marked a new benchmark for the increasingly popular digital video disc format that was introduced five years ago.

That figure surpasses the previous record of $455.8 million set in the fourth quarter of 2001 and the $569.8 million grossed over the entire year 2000.

### Comparison

A comparison of first-quarter market share shows that DVDs more than doubled to 29.2 percent while VHS declined to just under 71 percent.

"I'd say DVD is definitely driving video demand," said Brad Hackley, VSDA director of research.

Last year was a breakthrough for DVD as the number of DVD players in the United States soared. One in every four US households now owns a DVD console, according to the VSDA.

The DVD boom has been driven, in part, by special features often packaged with the digital discs, such as director interviews, games, extra footage and behind-the-scenes highlights of a particular movie.

The growing popularity of DVDs, which carry higher profit margins than video cassettes, have in turn fueled the earnings of video rental chains such as Blockbuster Inc. and Hollywood Entertainment Corp.

Movie studios, too, see the new products as major vehicles for boosting earnings, especially Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Inc., which relies heavily on re-issuing old movies in the new, digital format. ***Reuters***

# Seven Hollywood studios team up to develop digital cinema technology

LOS ANGELES—Hollywood's seven leading movie studios have teamed up to develop a technical standard for digital cinema technology in a rare cooperation that could revolutionize the nascent medium, the studios said.

### Plan

The studios involved in the plan are Walt Disney Co., 20th Century Fox, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer (MGM), Paramount Pictures, Sony Pictures Entertainment, Universal Studios and Warner Bros.

The moguls hope to set a global norm for future-generation digital movie viewing and to boost the spread of digital cinema projection equipment across the United States.

"Initial plans for the entity include adopting technical standards that ensure competing digital exhibition formats are open, compatible, and interoperable," they said in a joint statement seen here Wednesday last week.

They said that to provide clearer viewing for mass audiences "there needs to be industry-wide standards so that movie producers, exhibitors, and equipment manufacturers can be confident" that their products and services are compatible.

### Global standard

Sources at the studios said they would work closely with both the movie theater operators and digital cinema technology manufacturers to advance a global standard for the new medium that threatens to revolutionize film-going.

Much of the initial work will involve setting benchmarks for projection standards, compression of films onto discs and copyright security, a huge concern in the dawn of the age of films delivered by Internet.

While Hollywood has for some time been pushing to broaden the digital cinema network in the United States, the spread of the technology has been slow, not least because of the $150,000 to $200,000 price tag on the equipment.

Out of a potential 150,000 screens in North America, South America, Australia, Europe and Asia, there are currently only about 50 cinema-grade digital projection systems in use.

Some 35 films have however been converted to digital format and have been seen by around four million moviegoers, the studios said.

Studio sources would not reveal how the new joint venture would be funded, but said that a management team would be unveiled in the coming months. ***AFP***

# *Assunta plays a stripper*

By Edmund L. Sicam

REVILLA AND DE ROSSI in "Kilabot at Kembot."

AFTER winning a Best Actress trophy for her performance in "Hubog," Assunta de Rossi is back in an action movie with Bong Revilla as her leading man. This early, there has already been much talk about the movie, not so much because of what Assunta bares here, but because of what Bong has to show!

Aside from several sizzling love scenes between Assunta and Bong, the press releases reveal that Bong Revilla actually bared his buttocks in one of the scenes! Assunta just laughs it off, *"Siyempre! Alangan naman ako lang ang nakahubad, di ba? Kawawa naman ako! (Sabi ko)* it's either *pareho kaming nakahubad* or *pareho kaming nakabihis!"*

### Motorcycle

According to Assunta, the movie, "Kilabot at Kembot", was not easy to shoot. One difficult scene had her and Bong Revilla riding on a motorcycle as they fled from the bad guys. This scene, which is being used in the trailer, is often seen on TV nowadays. *"Alam mo, sa totoo lang, may naka-*stand by *talagang* double. *Pero talagang ako, ako talaga lahat! Naloka ako!"* she says shrieking. *"Sabi ko, ha? Ako na lahat gagawa niyan?* E accident-prone *pa naman ako!"* shares the sexy star. Fortunately, luck was on her side during the shooting of the action scenes, and she made it without so much as a scratch.

Assunta shares that the dancing she had to do was no picnic, either. In the movie, she plays a stripper in a posh club. The producers hired the services of a choreographer who actually created dance numbers for those clubs. *"Ginawa ko dito, hindi basta giling lang! Talagang pagkabag sa* floor, *umaano sa poste, naghuhubad ng* top...*iyung talagang* super mega production number to the max!" she gasps.

Assunta also disclosed that they shot the dance sequences one after another, from 2 a.m. to 4 p.m., a total of 14 hours. *"Kinabukasan,* birthday *na* birthday *ko! May* show *pa ako no'n, hindi ako makalakad ng matino!"* she recalls.

Assunta says that she could relate to her character in the story, Sienna, a dancer in a night club, who is "judged" by the people around her. This is one issue that affects Assunta very much. *"Sa totoo lang,* in real life, *nararanasan ko iyon!"*

*"Marami akong* roles *na ginagampanan na talagang nakaka-*relate *ako. Pati sa* "Jologs," (her coming movie for Star Cinema) *istudyante ako, balahurang babae, pala-mura, yosi ng yosi, malandi, taklesa—hindi naman ako ganoon* in real life *pero iyung mga tao sa paligid ko, nahuhusgahan ako. Hindi naman ako demonyita,"* she says in her defense.

She gamely revealed why her relationship with cager Rommel Adducul failed to prosper.

*"Siguro mas mabuti na lang maging* friends *na lang kami kasi hindi* healthy *iyung mag-asawa kayo tapos lagi kayo away ng away. Napapagod na rin ako, sa kakaaway namin kasi* born-again Christian *(siya) tapos wala kaming ginawa kundi pag-awayan ang* religion, *masama iyon di ba?"* she explains.

Assunta says that when she loves someone, she does it wholeheartedly and accepts the person as he is. She wishes that her guy would do the same for her. *"Tanggapin na lang niya kung sino at ano ako, kung kung paano ko siya tinanggap, lahat-lahat, kung paano ko siya minahal, sana ganoon din sa akin."*

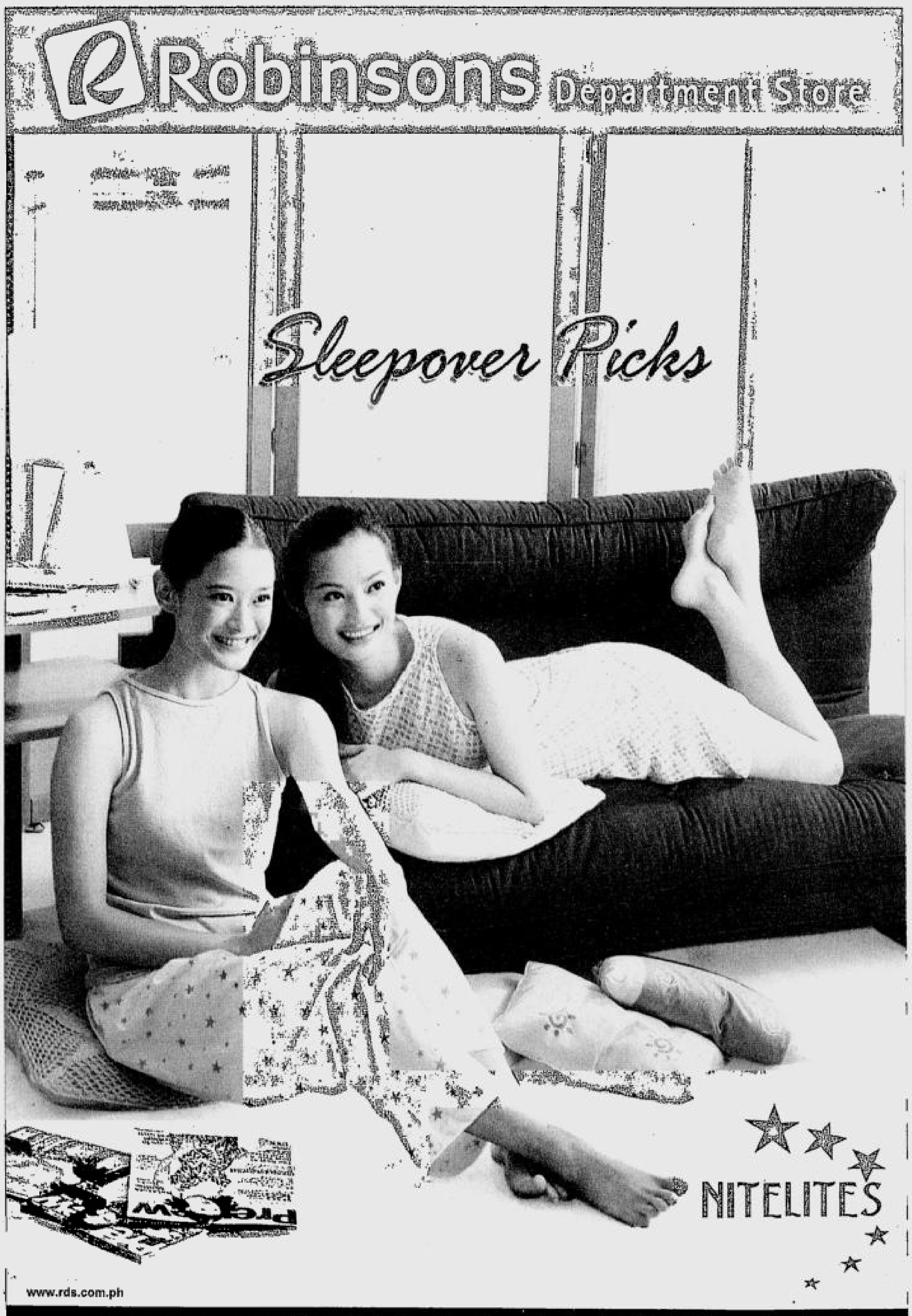
Assunta shares that in one way or another, she has helped in changing her men for the better. "In fairness *naman, lahat sila napapatino ko. Kahit ligaw lang,* at least, *tumitino, di ba? Ibig sabihin no'n meron talaga akong* power *magpatino ng lalaki!"* she laughingly declares.

### No time for love

Besides, Assunta says she has no time for love. She has three television shows on GMA-7 and has several movies lined up. She has had to cut down her appearances on "Bubble Gang," where she is a regular. The actress has also been tapped to join the cast of a soap opera on Channel 7 where she will essay the role of a rape victim. She will have Jomari Yllana as her partner.

In spite of her success, Assunta's feet are still firmly on the ground. "I always think *na iyung* opportunities *na dumarating, kailangan i-*grab, *kasi aminin naman natin o hindi, maraming darating na mas magagaling sa akin.* She says her fear is not so much of fading away, but rather of fading away without having set aside anything for the future.

"As much as possible, *ipon ng ipon, para if ever na hindi ka na nga* active, *na medyo nabawas-bawasan mga* racket *mo, di ka na mamoroblema,"* she shares.



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# Capsule compilation of tips for aspiring pop singers

By Nestor U. Torre

ASPIRING singers who are serious about pursuing a professional career in entertainment should learn a lot from Butch Albarracin's "Talking About Singing," a capsule compilation of the advice he's imparted to his many singing students at the Center for Pop Music Philippines since 1984.

### Fruit of experience

Albarracin has trained a number of singers who have made it in show biz and musical theater, so his advice is the fruit of experience, not abstract principles.

We like his emphasis on sharing and communication, as opposed to sheer technical proficiency. This is an important piece of advice because many singers are content with just sounding good, and don't care about understanding what they are singing, turning that understanding into feelings, and communicating those feelings to their listeners so effectively that the people listening to them can empathetically experience those emotions as well.

### Dictum

If more young singers practice Albarracin's dictum of understanding, personalizing the songs they perform, this will go along way in helping local singers (and audiences) get over their "*gaya-gaya*" orientation that rewards "xerox" performers who merely ape foreign singing stars' styles and vocal placements.

No More Elvis Presleys of the Philippines, no more local clones of Jennifer Lopez, Michael Jackson and Britney Spears—what a relief that would be!

Also on-target is the book's strong emphasis on focus and determination. Singing stardom isn't the product of a "vocational" or "hobbyist" attitude toward performing. Evan if you have a good singing voice, that's no guarantee that you'll become the next Martin Nievera or Regine Velasquez.

### Goal

*They* set their sights on stardom and worked really hard to attain that goal. If they weren't so focused and determined, they probably wouldn't be the bankable names they are now.

Since the Philippines is blessed with an overbalance of musical talent, we have some unknown singers who quite possibly are more musically gifted than our top singing stars today.

But they haven't made it to the bigtime because they've been *waiting* for the breaks to come, instead of creating their own opportunities and developing their abilities so that, when the big breaks do come, they're ready to take full advantage of those opportunities.

### Duds

Less-focused people waste their time dreaming of those big breaks. When they do present themselves, they turn out to be duds because the young talents are too raw to make it as professional singers.

Included in this problematic situation are talents who engage in false modesty regarding their musical gift. When they are asked to sing at a get-together, they "shyly" beg off three times before they "grudgingly" agree-and promptly whip out the minus-one tape they've kept in their bag precisely for such invitations to sing!

### Bemused anticlimax

Alas, their "modesty" impresses and convinces absolutely nobody, so when they finally sing, their performance is greeted with a sense of bemused anticlimax.

Aspiring singers should also know how to deal with various kinds of listeners. Some performers get completely thrown off by a single heckler, but they shouldn't be so timorous and onion-skinned. It takes all kinds, and you can't please everybody—just listen to the criticism that is occasionally hurled even at the stellar likes of Martin and Regine!

Instead of wilting like last week's lettuce when they encounter people who are less than thrilled with their performance, singers should concentrate on becoming so good at what they do that potential critics will no longer have any reason to carp and quibble.

### Weaknesses

And, when they do get criticized, singers should know how to turn that negative experience into a positive, learning moment. Some critics are right, you know, and they point to weaknesses in your performance that you can work hard to improve, so that audiences in the future won't feel like tearing your performance to pieces.

Above all, whatever happens, don't quit! Some new performers give up after the first few disappointments, thus their show biz dreams remain unachieved. Don't let a few people get you down—don't get *many* people get you down, for that matter!

Tell yourself that you're giving your performing career *five years* before you throw in the towel—and you'll have a better chance of making it. For more tips on becoming a successful singer, read Albarracin's "Talking About Singing."

# 'Harry Potter' video to be released on May 14

## MONTAGE

WARNER Bros. Home Video will release on May 14 the 152-minute VHS, three-disc VCD and the two-disc DVD of the box-office hit "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone." The video includes footage not shown in the theatrical version.

Harry Potter fans who visit participating stores like Astrovision, Video City, Tower Records, Music One, Enchanted Video, Global Video and Video Quest will enjoy exciting promo options. Or they can log on to www.myayala.com.

### Rivermaya, Slapshock at Music Museum

Rivermaya and Slapshock, team up for the first time in a major show, "Double Trouble-Akoustik Rampage" on May 18 at 8 p.m. at the Music Museum. The one-night-only event combines the smooth grooves of acoustics and the high-voltage musical mayhem common to both popular bands. Call 891-5610.

### Hard Rock party series

This May, Hard Rock Cafe and Disco Mix Club Philippines mount a cool party series featuring the best R&B and hip-hop music. The event, "The Pink Episode," kicked off last night at Hard Rock Cafe lasting from midnight till dawn.

The Pink Episode is headed by DJs Tease, Tiny, J-Rock and Sugar, MCs Janna and L Smith, and DMC dancers Cherry, Michelle, Joanne, Nadine and Janelle.

Future performances are scheduled on May 24, June 7 and 21. Call 893-4661.

### 'Abakada... Ina' on Viva Cinema

Lorna Tolentino stars in "Abakada...Ina," a poignant story of an illiterate Filipina mother whose desire to keep her family intact enables her to rise to the many challenges in their lives.

The movie is the special pre-Mother's Day presentation of Viva Cinema on May 11 at 8 p.m. with a replay on May 15 at 8 p.m.

### 'Sex in the City' promo

The fourth season of "Sex and the City" starts on May 14 on HBO. The movie channel is giving away promo items to viewers of the new episodes who can answer questions about the series.

Questions for Episode 49: "The Agony and 'Ex'-tasy":

1. Carrie gets a letter from a dating service. What is the name of the company?
2. What was written on the engagement party invitation that Miranda received?
3. What did Mr. Big give Carrie for her birthday?
4. Which actor do Carrie and Miranda fantasize about?

Interested readers can send in their answers to SATC Promo c/o Virtusio PR, P.O. Box 512, Greenhills, San Juan or e-mail nespinosa@virtusio.com

### Working moms symposium

In time for Mother's Day, Star World and ABS-CBN's Working Mom will hold a whole-day symposium for working mothers today from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Columbus Room of Discovery Suites.

Featured speakers are Cory Quirino on health and fitness, Maricel Laxa-Pangilinan on guiding principles for balancing family and career, and An Alcantara on guidelines for quality time at work and at home. There will also be lectures on power dressing courtesy of Liz Claiborne and skincare for mothers from Shiseido.

The affair will be hosted by Chiqui Roa-Puno of "Mommy Academy." Call 637-0266 or e-mail stvmnl@startv.com.ph. ***(Compiled by Edmund L. Sicam)***

# Loss and sharing

**STREET SMART**

*Mandy Navasero*

"HOW do I love thee, let me count the ways," is how a popular love poem begins; then it ends with something like, "I shall but love thee better after death." In the case of mothers Cristina Carrion-Bichara and Evelyn Mamauag-del Rosario, those poetic lines couldn't ring truer.

Christina's oldest son died at 35 in a freak motorcycle accident in 1999, while Evelyn's little girl, age seven, choked to death on a piece of rambutan fruit that lodged in her windpipe in 1989.

### Distraught

Both mothers were distraught, their fragile hearts broken into a million pieces as only mothers' hearts can break. The fathers, Emil and Mike, were disconsolate beyond tears.

Earlier, as fate would have it, these two mothers met in the International Eucharistic Congress in Sevilla, Spain in 1993. They were roommates, in fact. In 1997, they were again together in the International Eucharistic Congress in Poland.

Evelyn's loss happened years earlier than Cristina's, so in God's mysterious way, Evelyn was a great comfort to Cristina when her son Raffy died. They became the best of friends.

Evelyn had set up the Ma. Tracy M. del Rosario Alay Kapatid Foundation, which assists children from the poorest families with a desire to study. At present, the Foundation supports the children's early education from grades four, five and six at St. Anthony's College in Sta. Ana, Cagayan Valley under the Franciscan Apostolic Sisters.

It also helps provide social and recreational services, including counseling, and spiritual and physical health services.

### Donors

Generous donors may contribute directly to Ma. Tracy M. del Rosario Alay Kapatid Foundation with Savings acct. No. 900-63317 and Current acct. No. 100-9000-20594 at Banco de Oro, Makati Avenue Branch corner Ayala Avenue, Makati City or call 810-5342 or 816-8353. The chairman of the Foundation is Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan.

Cristina, husband Mike, surviving son Miguelon and Club 200, which had Raffy's motorcycle buddies as members (Raffy was a champ in the motorcycle circuit), have also organized the Rafael C. Bichara Helping Hand Foundation, Inc., which is in the process of incorporation. The Foundation will provide continuing high school education to the children sponsored earlier by her friend Evelyn's Foundation in the same school in Cagayan Valley.

Interested parties who want to support the children may call Miguel C. Bichara, Jr. at 850-6631 or 850-6582 or 0917-810 2839.

### Sign

A religious woman devoted to the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Cristina felt intense pain over her loss. She asked God for a sign that Raffy was in heaven before she wrote to the Pink Sisters in Tagaytay. They sent her a stampita which showed a young man walking towards Christ whose hands were outstretched in welcome. The man resembled Raffy, and today, a bigger version hangs in Raffy's room, easing the pain of those who love him.

The message in the stampita is a prayer of surrender to God's will and the joy that comes with it. As a text message says, "Let go and let God." This sums up what Cristina and Evelyn have learned despite their tragic losses. Endless love for their children has not only bonded these two mothers, but linked them to the lives of poor waifs as well.

* * *

Community service of Mandy Navasero Studio: Family pictures of mothers and their children. Those interested may call 522-1905, T-Fax 522-5185, 522-5189, CF (0916) 306-0841 or e-mail address mn_photocom@i-manila.com.ph. Other services are models' portfolios, and product and people shots for manufacturers, advertisers and exporters.

* * *

We pray for dear Lorna Montilla, who passed away May 9. May she live an everlasting life in heaven.

**SHOWN** are Evelyn M. del Rosario and Cristina C. Bichara with son Miguelon, Mike and grandson Justin, (right), and some members of the Rafael C. Bichara Helping Hand Foundation, Inc.: Kneeling (from left), Nikki Romeo Y. Tynn Daez; Standing (from left), Randy Ortiz, Joey Castañeda, Red Romero and Joey Villacorte; Back row (from left), Johnson Caballeros, Dodit Aquino, Geraldo Aycardo, Martin Tancinco, Joby Tanseco, Miguel Bichara, Julian Goita and Serge Javellana.

**TRACY Sue, 7, Grade I at Assumption Convent Antipolo, honored by her mother with the Ma. Tracy M. del Rosario Alay Kapatid Foundation.**

# George Sidney, director of hit musicals in 1940s and '50s, dies at age 85

LAS VEGAS—George Sidney, who directed dozens of musicals when the genre was at its peak and presided over Hollywood's directors guild for 16 years, died Sunday. He was 85.

Sidney died at home of complications of lymphoma, said his wife, Corinne Sidney.

### Studio system

A one-time child actor whose career took him from the vaudeville stage to decades of success in the studio system, Sidney directed a string of hits for MGM in the 1940s and 1950s, including "Ziegfeld Follies" (1946), "Annie Get Your Gun" (1950), "Show Boat" (1951) and "Kiss Me Kate" (1953).

He worked with such show business greats as Frank Sinatra, Gene Kelly, Tony Curtis, Lana Turner, Dick Van Dyke and Ann-Margret, and once defined a star as "someone who attracts your attention even when he or she isn't doing anything."

Sidney was president of the Screen Directors Guild in 1960, when it merged with the Radio and Television Directors Guild to form the Directors Guild of America. He spent 16 years at the head of the organization and was the first recipient of its presidents award, in 1998.

### Saddened

"The Directors Guild is extremely saddened by the passing of our former president, George Sidney," DGA president Martha Coolidge said in a statement. "His distinguished career as a director, along with his years of service and dedication to the DGA, were in an inspiration to us all. He will be greatly missed."

In a 1998 interview with AP, Sidney discussed the decline of the genre he loved.

"Musicals became too expensive," he said. "When we were working at MGM, there was a whole company of talent: stars, directors, choreographers, song writers, conductors, arrangers. All worked under contract at regular salaries. To gather people like that today would be enormously costly."

A private memorial was being planned. ***AP***

**GEORGE Sidney directed dozens of musicals when the genre was at its peak, and presided over Hollywood's directors guild for 16 years.**

# 'Ally McBeal' to bow out after current season due to low ratings

LOS ANGELES—"Ally McBeal," the quirky, critically acclaimed show about a yuppie lawyer that helped Fox gain a reputation as a serious TV network, will end its run in May after five seasons due to low ratings, the network said on Thursday.

### Second major cancellation

The move marks the second major cancellation of a big Fox show following the network's announcement in January that its popular series "The X Files" would also be canceled in May.

"McBeal" will have its series finale on May 20, according to the Fox Broadcasting Co., a unit of News Corp. Ltd.

Created by critically acclaimed TV writer David E. Kelly, "Ally McBeal" centers around a law firm and its quirky central title character, played by Calista Flockhart.

"It's sad to say goodbye to something you love, even when perhaps it is time," said Kelly, whose other credits include "Boston Public" and "The Practice."

"Ally McBeal" became a hit soon after its premiere in 1997, and went on to win Emmy awards for outstanding comedy series and outstanding supporting actor for Peter MacNicol, who played the introverted, eccentric lawyer John Cage.

### Best actress

It also won four Golden Globe awards, including two for best comedy series and one for Flockhart as best actress.

Many felt the show was losing steam last season, but its fortunes were briefly revived when Robert Downey Jr. joined the cast as a guest in a recurring role. Downey, who has had problems with drugs, left abruptly toward the end of last season.

Without him, the show muddled through most of the current season with a string of new characters and celebrity guests including Jon Bon Jovi and Dame Edna Everage, portrayed by Australian comedian Barry Humphries.

Despite those efforts, the show's ratings have been low all season, ranking 60th in total viewers with an average audience of 9.74 million, according to Nielsen Media Research. ***Reuters***

**FLOCKHART. Quirky character.**

# Willis buys Girl Scout cookies for US troops

LOS ANGELES—He may be one of the world's most famous movie tough guys but "Die Hard" star Bruce Willis also has a soft spot in his heart for Girl Scouts and their cookies.

### Three daughters

Inspired by the youngest of his three daughters, Tallulah Belle Willis, 8, who is in the second grade and was selling the famous treats for her Sun Valley, Idaho Brownie-Girl Scout troop, the 47-year-old actor bought 12,000 boxes of Girl Scout cookies for shipment to US troops serving in and near Afghanistan, his publicist, Paul Bloch said on Tuesday.

Tallulah Belle herself, along with her cousins, Katie and Haley Rogers, came up with the idea to donate the cookies when they realized the men and women in Afghanistan would not have a chance to enjoy such quintessentially American treats as Peanut Butter Patties, Thin Mints, and Samoas, Bloch said.

The children, he said, "wanted to create an opportunity to bring a taste of home to the military troops overseas, as a way to say thank you and show their support and appreciation for their heroic efforts in protecting our freedom," Bloch said.

Willis paid the full price of $36,000, troop leader Sue Dumke said, adding that he and his ex-wife Demi Moore, Tallulah Belle's mother, are enthusiastic supporters of the Girl Scouts and the ideals they embody.

### Donation

Dumke also said that because the cookies are only made for a few months of the year, the donation required reopening a bakery, as well as permission from the Defense Department.

"Tallulah Belle was very proud of her father for doing this and he was much more proud of her," Bloch said.

The cookies were en route to the region on Tuesday and would be divided among Army and Air Force personnel as well as Navy sailors and Marines aboard the USS Wasp, an amphibious assault vessel, and the aircraft carrier USS John F. Kennedy,

Defense Department spokesman Lt. Col. Jim Cassella said.

"Early on (in the war) we were overwhelmed by an outpouring of support by the American people. This donation is not only appreciated but shows that Americans continue to support us, and for that we are very appreciative," Cassella said.

"Certainly there are no Girl Scouts in Afghanistan or on the ships," he said. "The only way to get the cookies is if family members send care packages so people will enjoy having them." ***Reuters***

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# Cantor takes bets for summer movies' success

LONDON—Spread betting company Cantor Index on Tuesday launched a service to let movie buffs wager on the performance of the US movie industry and summer blockbusters such as "Spider-Man," "Scooby-Doo" and "Men in Black II."

Cantor's Blockbuster Index will track the fortune of 10 Hollywood films during their first four weeks. It comes after "Spider-Man" opened to a box office record of $114.8 million this weekend, setting the pace for a record-breaking summer and 2002.

### Technical analysis

"There are a lot of people who do research into the whole market and are betting on a technical analysis of the industry," said Dominic Crosthwaite of Cantor Movies, the firm's film spread betting unit.

# 'The Sweetest Thing' is a gross-out comedy for female viewers

**By David Germain**

LOS ANGELES—Women now have a gross-out comedy of their own.

"The Sweetest Thing" proves that a lowbrow chick flick can be just as cretinous as a big dumb guy movie (excluding anything by Tom Green).

### Most vapid

"Rollerball" already has it beat for worst movie so far this year, but "The Sweetest Thing" has the early lead for most vapid.

You'd think the usually winsome Cameron Diaz could phone in her role and still lift a comedy into the tolerable range. This time out, Diaz actually is upstaged by co-star Christina Applegate, who wangles a few laughs out of material so empty it would be lavish praise to call it vegetative.

Talented co-star Selma Blair, however, winds up the Jason Biggs, "American Pie"-style patsy of some pathetically lame sex sight gags. (Director Roger Kumble, who worked with Blair on "Cruel Intentions," notes that the actress will do anything in a role; Kumble means it as a compliment, but Blair may want to reevaluate her work ethic given the results here.)

Diaz plays Christina Walters, a brash, lusty woman whose love-'em-and-leave-'em attitude deposits the carcass of many a woebegone suitor behind her.

### Failed aspirants

Christina is introduced through pseudo-interviews with failed aspirants to her affections. The sequence is mildly amusing, though it's a cheesy knockoff of the far cleverer talk-to-the-camera confessionals occasionally used by "Sex and the City," a show that has more smarts, heart and humor in one pedicured toenail than "The Sweetest Thing" has in its whole cadaver.

After that opening, the movie declines into mind-numbing prattle and imbecilic bathroom or bedroom slapstick as Christina and gal pals Courtney (Applegate) and Jane (Blair) giggle and jiggle through the joys of noncommittal passion.

"Don't go looking for Mr. Right. Look for Mr. Right Now," Christina proclaims in one of the movie's few foxy lines. "And eventually, if he's worthy, that Now part is just going to drop away."

One night at a happening club, Christina bumps into a worthy one, Peter (Thomas Jane), a hunk with whom she clicks to the point that days later, she's still daydreaming about him. On a whim, Christina and Courtney set off on a road trip to track him down, setting up a lot of bad potty humor intercut with Jane's inane sexual shenanigamoved. ***AP***

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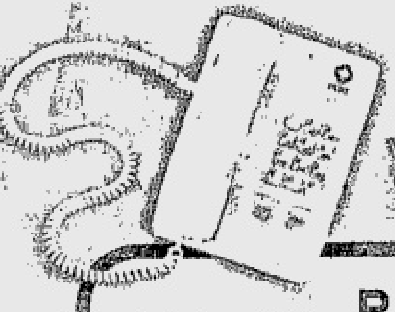

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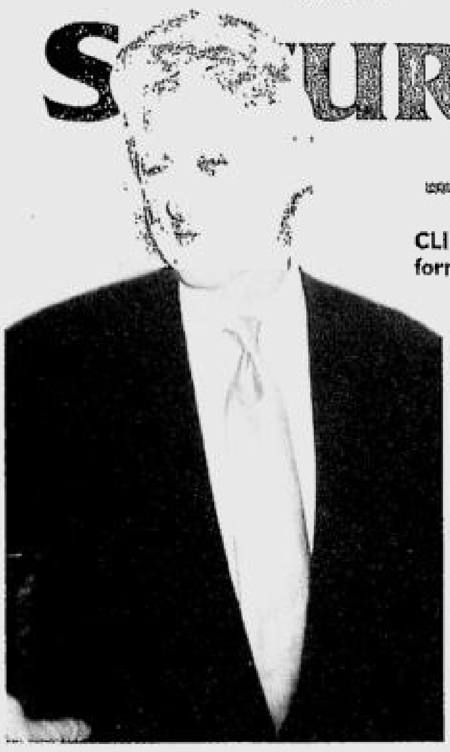
# SATURDAY *Special*



**CLINTON.** A television program hosted by a former president would be unprecedented.

## The Bill Clinton Talk Show? Stay tuned!

By Steve Gorman

**LOS ANGELES—Television talk show viewers may be saying goodbye to Rosie O'Donnell and Sally Jesse Raphael, but are they ready to say hello to Bill Clinton? And is he ready to say hello to them?**

### Old friend

The 55-year-old former president met NBC executives this week about the possibility of hosting a talk show of his own at the Los Angeles offices of his old friend, TV producer Harry Thomason.

There was some disagreement over who called the meeting. Clinton's spokeswoman Julia Payne confirmed that it took place but said the ex-president was listening to proposals, not demanding his own show.

The Los Angeles Times, meanwhile, quoted TV industry sources as saying Clinton wanted $50 million a year to host a talk show and had aspirations "of becoming the next Oprah Winfrey."

Thomason was moved to issue a brief statement: "Yes, President Clinton, as he has over the years, visited our offices (Wednesday), and we were glad to let him use them for a meeting with several of his acquaintances from NBC. Concerning the $50 million referred to in the Los Angeles Times, if he doesn't want to do a talk show, I volunteer."

### Informal meeting

Payne said, "Yesterday's informal meeting was one of many meetings President Clinton has had with many people over the past year.

"President Clinton did not demand a talk show. He went to listen. The president is gratified by the range of opportunities that have been presented to him."

A terse NBC statement issued late in the day added little, saying a "range of ideas was discussed, which included the opportunity of working together." The network also referred to the talks as an "informal meeting."

NBC is a unit of General Electric Co.

Television industry sources cited by the Times said they doubted Clinton would actually commit to doing a talk show once he understands the demands of such a job, which typically involve daily weekday tapings for 39 weeks out of the year.

In December 2000, his last month in the White House, NBC officials acknowledged approaching Clinton through Thomason with the idea of the president hosting a weekly talk show after he left office. At the time, the White House dismissed the idea, saying Clinton "had no plans to do such a show."

A television program hosted by a former president would be unprecedented. Ex-occupants of the Oval Office typically have kept a relatively low profile as elder statesmen, devoting themselves mainly to philanthropic pursuits, speeches and the organization of their libraries.

### Lecture circuit

Clinton reportedly has been earning as much as $15 million a year on the lecture circuit since leaving office, in addition to a $12 million publishing deal with Alfred A. Knopf that is believed to be the largest advance in history.

Speculation about Clinton embarking on a TV career comes amid a shake-up in the talk show arena, as O'Donnell and Raphael will both bid farewell to viewers later this month after syndicated runs of six years and 19 years, respectively.

"Rosie" will be replaced by the "Caroline Rhea Show," and actress-comedian Ellen DeGeneres has signed up to host a daytime talk program of her own next year, unless CBS brings her struggling sitcom back to prime time in the fall.

In addition, CBS "Early Show" co-host Bryant Gumbel said last month that he would soon be leaving his anchor seat after failing to agree on a new contract. Rumors surfaced earlier this week that Clinton was a candidate to replace Gumbel, but CBS dismissed those reports.

Thomason and his producing partner, wife Linda Bloodworth-Thomason, have known Clinton since his days as Arkansas governor and have served as political advisers at various times over the years. *Reuters*

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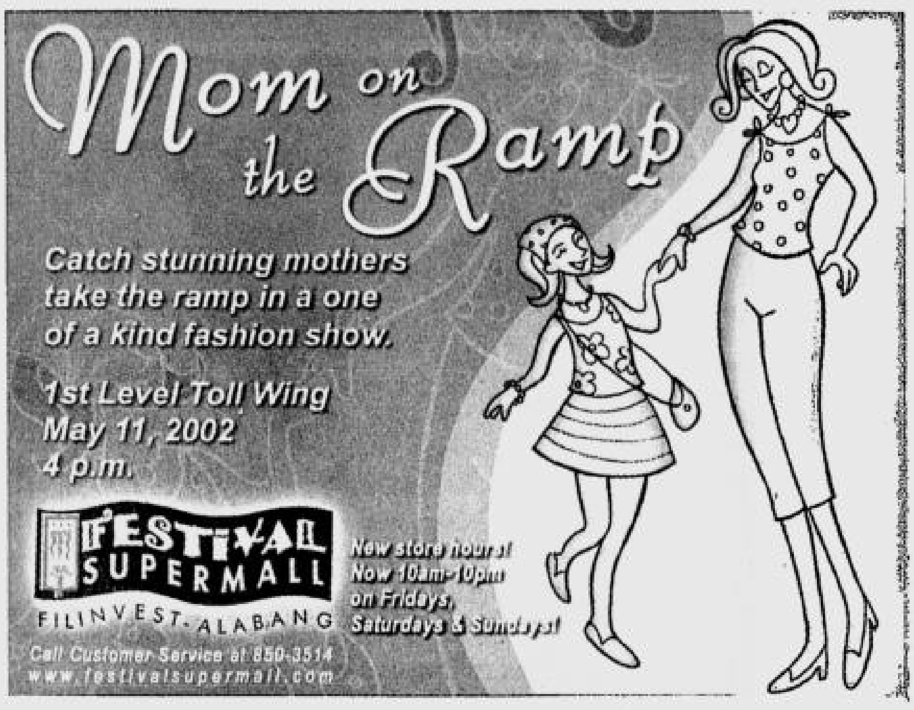

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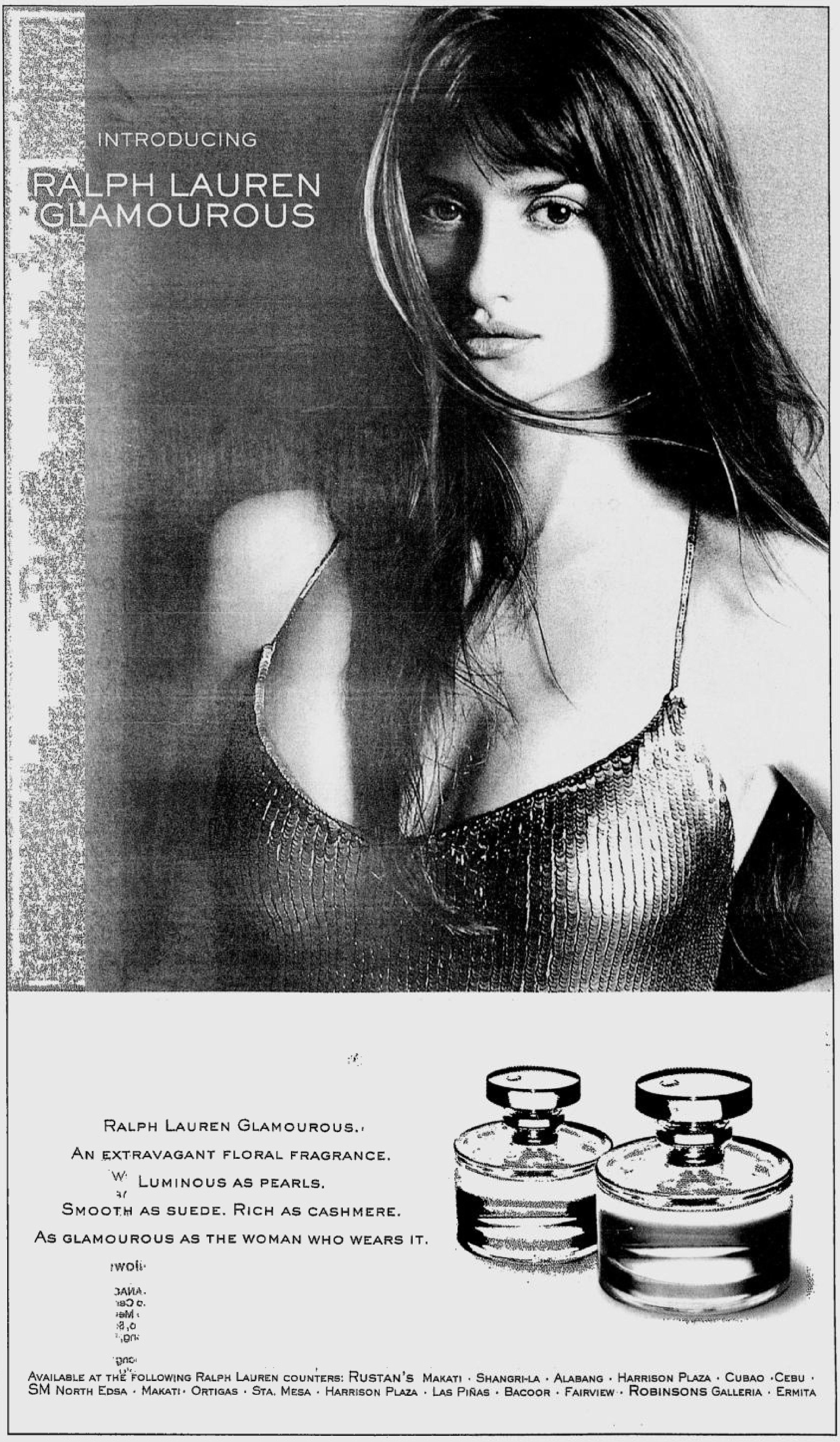

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# Local soaps and foreign telenovelas compared

By Noelani Torre

DUE to competition from telenovelas like "MariMar," local soaps like "Pangako sa 'Yo" have heightened the pacing of their stories.

THE soap opera has long had a solid grip on the Filipino heart. For years we've been agonizing over our favorite *bida's* troubles, crying over her (most *bidas* are female) heartaches, and rejoicing over her joyful moments.

### Escapist

We love to hate the *kontrabida* and we love it even more when he or she finally gets his or her due (they always do). Good triumphs in the end, and everybody, except those who don't deserve to, lives happily ever after. Escapist, true, but we've always been fond of good, long escapes.

There has been a major change in the soap opera landscape though, a change which begun a few years ago with the arrival of "MariMar" and her talking dog, Fulgoso. "Marimar" took the whole world by storm. Africans, Eastern Europeans, Americans, and of course, Filipinos, were glued to their TV screens whenever Thalia would make her appearance.

According to a UNESCO article, a Moslem town even had to postpone the prayer hour during Ramadan, so the faithful wouldn't have to make the "agonizing choice" between "MariMar" and their faith!

### Imports

In any case, through "MariMar" we Filipinos discovered the Latin American telenovela, and we can't seem to get enough of them. Now, marching side by side with our own soaps are these imports from Mexico, Brazil, and other South American telenovela-exporting countries.

They are equally popular, sometimes even more so, and we wonder why. What's the difference between local and foreign TV soap operas?

The Latin American soaps we get to watch are all love stories. They are characterized by fast pacing, dozens of sub-plots, and strong undercurrents of suspense. Every episode ends on a high note, thus ensuring viewers' continued patronage.

As in local soaps, the telenovela's characters have to surmount the terrible slings and arrows that fate chooses to hurl against them, and they do so with as much accompanying melodrama as possible.

### Happy ending

Local soaps have long used the same formula of suspense and a happy ending. Recently, due to competition from the foreign imports, they have also heightened the pacing of their stories in a bid to steal a percentage of the foreign soaps' audience. *(To be concluded)*

# 'Salvador' writer and Oscar nominee comes for a visit

By Rica Arevalo

"SALVADOR" (1986) concerns the autobiographical exploits of journalist Richard Boyle in war-torn El Salvador. Co-written by Boyle and director Oliver Stone, it starred James Wood and James Belushi and was completely made outside of the studio system by the British film company Hemdale. "Salvador" was nominated for the 1987 Academy Award for best original screenplay.

### Novel

"I was working on a novel about El Salvador and I also made a half-hour documentary film. I showed them to Oliver not for the idea of making a movie but just to educate him. He loved it," recounts Boyle.

They wrote the screenplay in three weeks. On another occasion, Boyle worked with Stone as a technical adviser in "Platoon."

"I would like to make a film here about World War II but I can't. Steven Spielberg might do one in Cabanatuan about a prison camp where the prisoners were liberated by Filipino guerillas and American rangers. I think he got Kevin Costner to act in it," he reveals.

Boyle is a veteran journalist covering wars in Lebanon, Vietnam, Northern Ireland and Central America. He was the last American to leave Cambodia after the Khmer Rouge takeover in 1975, after being held prisoner for three weeks.

### Professor

When not a foreign correspondent, he is a professor at the University of Southern California, Stanford University and the San Francisco State University. "I teach screenwriting, documentary filmmaking, and the history of political films."

Boyle is married to a Filipina, and was in town last weekend to meet with aspiring writers at the Mowelfund Film Institute.

He shares, "I told them how to write a script, the business of screenwriting, how to get an agent, how to protect your script, how to deal with the writer's guild."

Rico Verzosa, 22, says, "He gave us insights on how to sell our scripts and what websites to visit. The websites are really helpful."

Dan Matutina, 19, a UP Fine Arts student, adds, "He informed us about the realities of screenwriting. When you submit your final script, it won't be the same as your first submission. There will always be changes."

### Process

Eric dela Cruz, 23, UST Communication Arts graduate says, "I saw 'Salvador' and was interested in the process of its creation. He shared his personal experiences in the Hollywood system."

Ms Bebot Aguirre, 51, a teacher from Cotabato, says, "I learned how to write a script. You start with motivation, conflict and resolution. Although I have read about it, it is different when you hear it from an insider. I can share this with my students."

BOYLE with his students.

Boyle finds his students "very sharp and impressive." But he urges them, "You've got to organize a writer's guild, a union. You've got to affiliate with the Writer's Guild of America. I really urge the writers here to organize, so that they'll be protected."

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# 'Vespers 2' vivifies the gift of musical prayer

By Leia Torre

"VESPERS 2: If I Could Touch You" is the second album produced by the Jesuit Music Ministry and the Jesuit Communications Foundation, Inc. with the aim of assisting listeners in meditation.

### More buoyant tunes

While the first "Vespers" album was geared more towards earnest reflection and was thus mostly comprised of somber melodies, "If I Could Touch You" includes tunes that are considerably more buoyant and occasionally more joyful.

The soothing songs are the result of the harmonious blending of the lilting strains of a flute and the lively chords of a guitar.

The flute, which is played by Ray Sison, is chiefly responsible for the unfolding of the melody, which in church is usually sung by the choir and the congregation.

The guitar, strummed by Lionel Zivan Valdellon, provides other tunes and accompanying embellishments for each number, without which the songs would sound hollow and incomplete.

### Atmosphere

A number of the songs can regularly be heard during Mass. They serve to bring the atmosphere of the house of the Lord into the listener's home. Some of the more adventurous listeners may even opt to sing along with those songs that they are familiar with.

It doesn't necessarily follow that because the album is meant to enrich one's meditation experience, it cannot be used for anything more lighthearted or practical. One testimonial to the earlier album was that it was used by a parent to lull her children to sleep. Talk about using it for pragmatic purposes.

The lack of words in all of the numbers does nothing to detract from their meaning. The performers render their parts so competently that one almost forgets that there are no lyrics to accompany the tranquil music.

This absence of words confers upon the album one of the most effective methods for making people concentrate, which is to eliminate all possible sources of distraction.

### Possible interpretations

When people are trying to pray, reflect, or simply spend some quiet time with themselves, it certainly helps if they do it while listening to something that calms them, without their having to expend extra energy to understand lyrics and their various possible interpretations.

The album inlay includes a nature-derived definition of vespers, as "the different sounds of birds, cicadas, and other distinct sounds that become a melody that your heart and being take over as its song." The same portion views the picture in its entirety, a picture in which the combination of sounds that comprises vespers is merely a fraction of the whole symphony.

This symphony is God's masterpiece, to which everything on this earth contributes its finest work.

All those involved in the production of "Vespers 2" have tried to reflect the presence of the Lord for everyone who is prepared to listen. This dedication is evident in the passion with which the musicians play their instruments and the way the songs chosen to be part of the album fit together harmoniously, the tireless efforts of those responsible for doing so to produce a nearly-flawless sound, and the assiduous undertaking of the producers to first produce an album and then make sure that it is marketable.

### Tracks

The tracks include "Papuri" by Jandi Arboleda-Chito Salazar and Norman Agatep, "Panalangin sa Pagiging Bukas Palad" by Francisco Soc Rodrigo and Fruto Ll. Ramirez, SJ., "If I Could Touch You" by Manoling Francisco, SJ, "Hesus ng Aking Buhay" by Arnel Aquino, SJ, and "Prayer of Rupert Mayer" by Manoling V. Francisco, SJ.

There are sixteen tracks in all, two of which are medleys. One of these, "Entrance Medley," has three songs that are usually sung during the beginning of mass—"Pag-aalaala" by Manoling V. Francisco, "Purihin ang Panginoon" by Fruto Ll. Ramirez, SJ, and "Ang Puso Koý Nagpupuri" by Eduardo P. Hontiveros, SJ.

The other medley is untitled, and is composed of the songs "Huwag Limutin" by Arnel dC. Aquino, SJ and "Huwag Mangamba" by Manoling V. Francisco, SJ.

Valdellon, aside from playing the guitar, contributes these songs to the album: "Pag-aalay ng Sarili," "I Seek You For I Thirst," and "Vespers (Nocturne 1): Dance The Dream Tower." Nemy Que, SJ is the album's producer.

Ray Sison and Lionel Valdellon share: "We learned to play our instruments through practicing the notes and chords of liturgical music. We learned to pray through song. And this is why we continue to bring the gift of musical prayer to those who allow the Spirit to stir their hearts." What a worthy gift it is, too!

# Villar's influence on the music industry continues to be felt

**By Tina Arceo-Dumlao**

"A MILLION Thanks To You," "Dahil sa Isang Bulaklak" and "Dahil Sa Iyo" are just a few of the Filipino record classics that were produced due to the foresight of the late Luis P. Villar Jr., whose Villar Records has become synonymous with the golden age of Filipino Music.

The 1982 recipient of the first Philippine Music Industry Awards, or the Cecil Awards for lifetime achievement, got the idea to produce records in 1949.

### Pact

The 33-year-old had just gotten married to his sweetheart Rosario the year before and they sealed a pact to help each other put up a business.

"He went to the United States and when he came back, he brought with him an American engineer who knew about producing records. Louie thought that there was an opportunity to go into the music business because there was import control at that time and it was very hard to import records," Rosario R. Villar recalls.

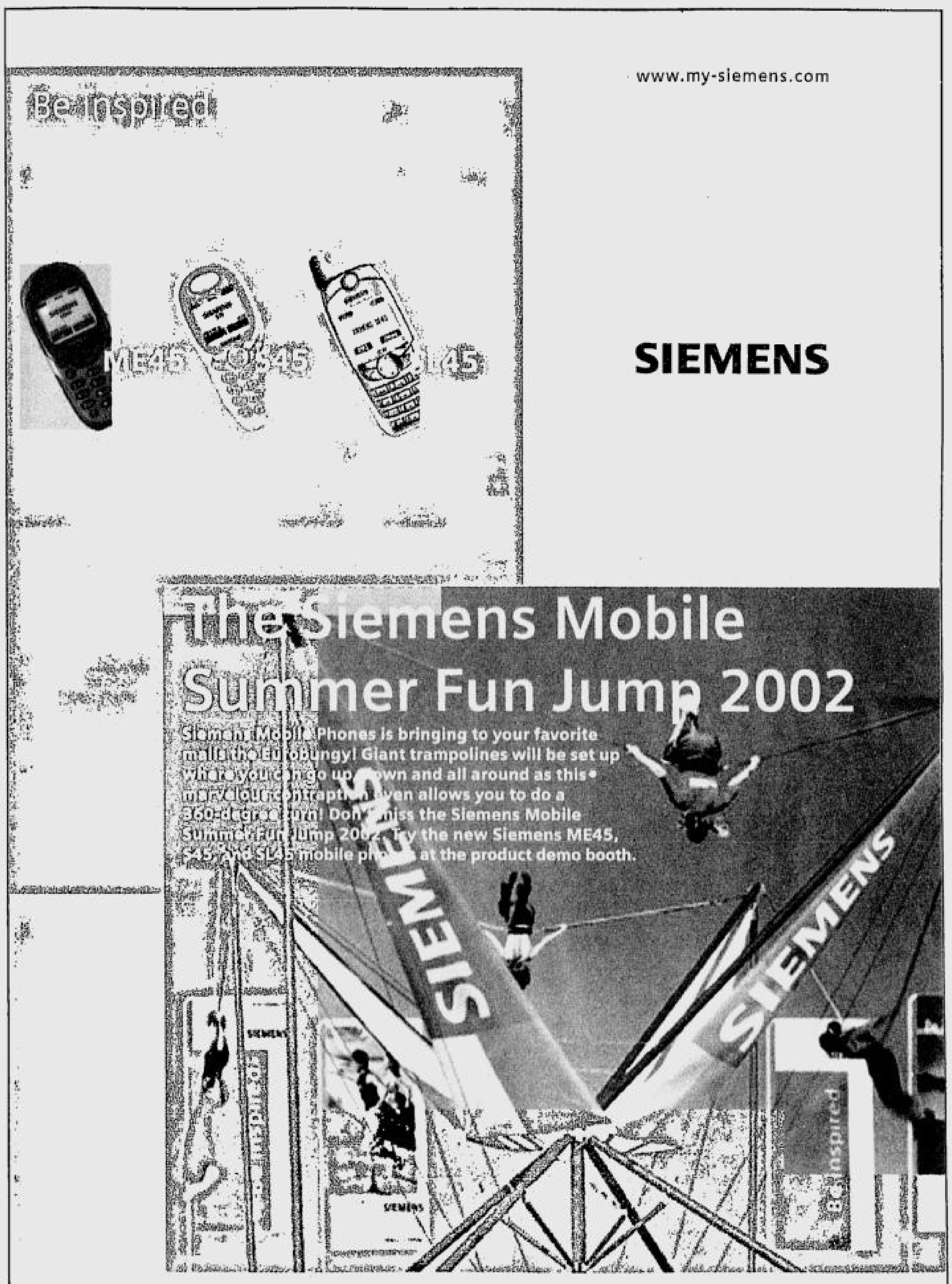
The result was Mabuhay Records Co., which cut its first record, "The Manila Bay

VILLAR'S/ p.D3

COLUMBIA Records' Jerry Vale with Luis P. Villar Sr. and Rosario Villar.

NEIL Sedaka of RCA Records.

MGM Records' Joni James became a close friend of the Villar family.



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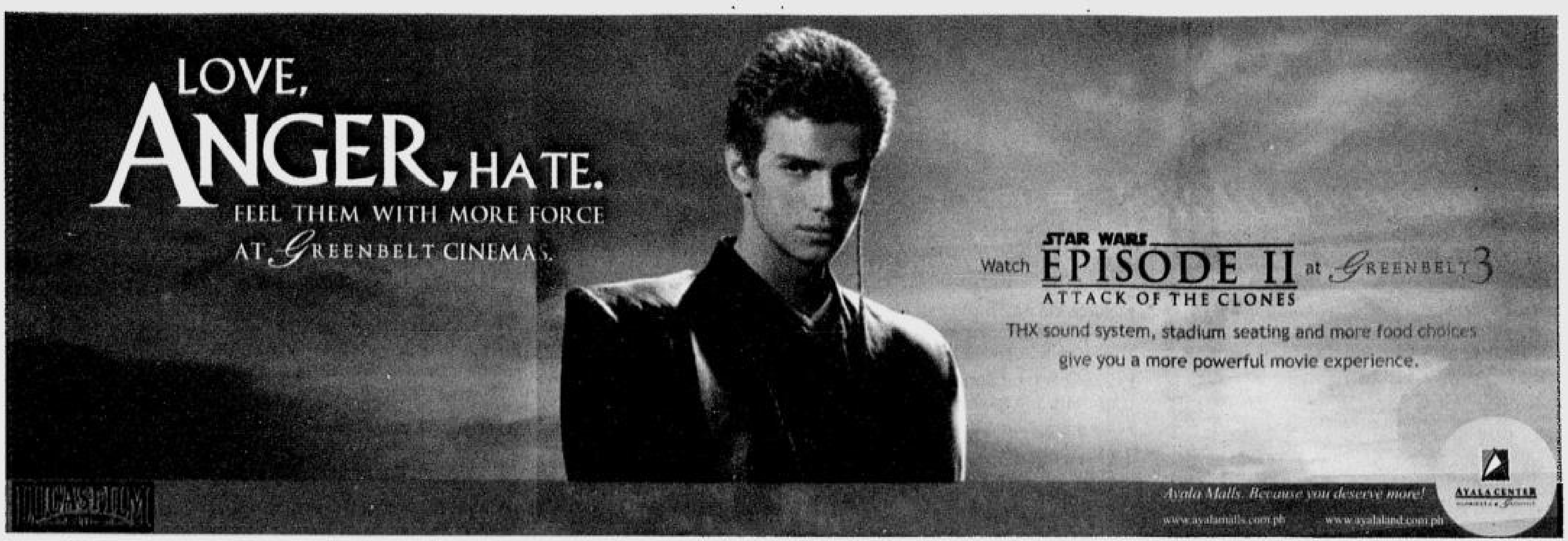

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LUIS and Rosario Villar with their children, in-laws and grandchildren during their golden wedding anniversary last Sept. 26,1998.

# Villar's influence on the music industry continues to be felt

From page D3

Rhumba," on Sept. 26, 1950.

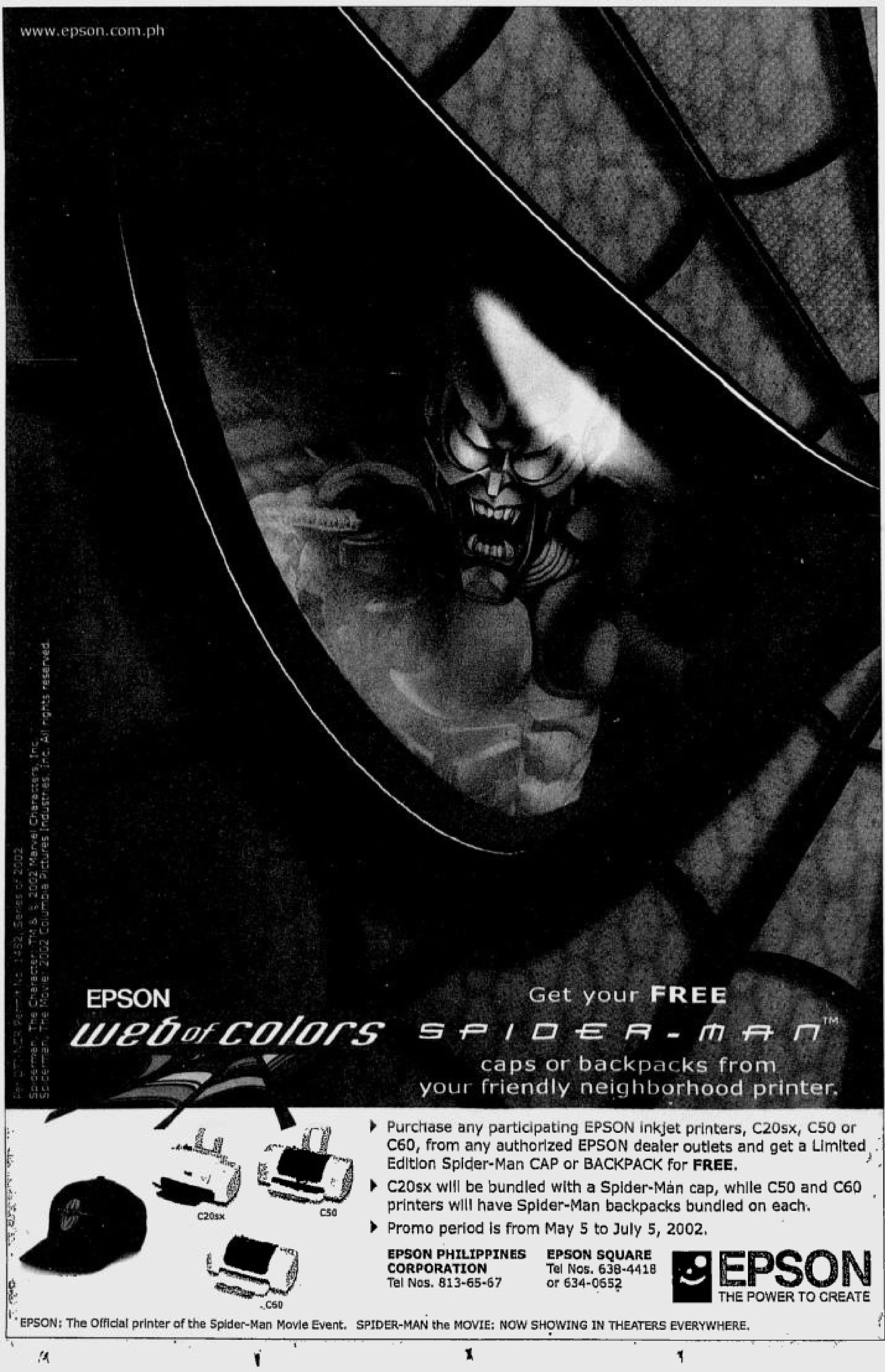
What followed was a string of records that launched the careers of many local music luminaries, such as Sylvia La Torre, Ruben Tagalog, Diomedes Maturan, Pilita Corrales, the New Minstrels, Ric Manrique and Jun Polistico. Even Basil Valdez says he cut his first record with the Villar group.

Villar, however, was not content to just feature Filipino music. He also went for exclusive licenses to produce records for international labels.

VILLAR'S/ p.D5

PAT Boone with Luis and Rosario Villar and children (from left) Louie, Elaine, Christine and Malu.

RICKY Nelson was a big hit during his performances here.



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# Stars help build homes for the poor

**VIEWFINDER**

*Nestor U. Torre*

AT 7 a.m. today, some show biz personalities are joining popular personalities from other fields to help build five houses for the poor in the Payatas, QC area. The project has been initiated by Couples for Christ, which has already built over 700 such homes.

The Celebrity Build activity is designed to drum up attention and support for Couples for Christ's national building campaign on June 1 and 2 this year, during which 1,000 homes will be built in 63 sites, called Gawad Kalinga areas, all over the country.

The celebrity-builders today include Ronnie Ricketts, Ricky Davao, Princess Punzalan, Michael Flores, Ace Espinosa, Mandy Ochoa, Miguel Vera, Renee Salud, Melanie Marquez, Chat Silayan, Dang Cecilio, Sharon Hughes, Vida Doria, Jeanne Young and other Universal Records artists, the La Salle Green Archers and the Ateneo Blue Eagles.

CFC social ministries director Tony Meloto hopes that other individuals and groups will get inspired by the example set by these popular personalities, and also help the poor in their own way.

Today's schedule: The opening prayer will be followed by welcome remarks by Dr. Rene Reyes, a brief history and overview of CFC Gawad Kalinga by Tony Meloto, the story of CFC GK Payatas by Rolly Unas, an exhortation of QC Mayor Sonny Belmonte, a press conference, and the actual celebrity build.

## Cannes filmfest winners

Three Cannes filmfest winners will be shown at 1 p.m. today at the Titus Brandsma center, 24 Acacia st., New Manila:

—"Salaam Bombay" by Mira Nair. The gut-wrenching chronicle of a young country boy's experience among the street hustlers, drug peddlers and prostitutes of Bombay.

—"Barton Fink" by the Coen brothers. John Turturro stars as a New York playwright whose success on the stage with a play celebrating the common man, leads to a lucrative screenwriting assignment.

—"sex, lies and videotape" by Steven Soderbergh focuses on a selfish, successful lawyer whose wife has turned frigid and whose sister-in-law has become his lover. He welcomes an old college friend who's visiting him, not knowing the effect he'll have on all of them.

**ROCES.** Sings at the Stars of Giorgio.

## Tribute to George Gershwin

At 9:30 tonight at Stars of Giorgio (call 893-7520), Josephine Roces sings some songs by George Gershwin. Her repertoire includes "The Man I Love," "A Foggy Day," "I've Got A Crush On You," "Nice Work If You Can Get It," "S'Wonderful," "Summertime," "They Can't Take That Away From Me," "Someone To Watch Over Me," "How Long Has This Been Going On?," "Embraceable You," and "I've Got Rhythm."

## Daphne says 'I do'

On "F" at 11 p.m today on Channel 2, program co-host Daphne Oseña will be seen marching down the aisle with Correspondent Patrick Paez. Find out how an office affair bloomed into a deep, lasting relationship.

Other features: Cher Calvin prepares for a Santacruzan, and Angel Aquino takes off on an afternoon of sailing.

## 'Time Out for Mom'

From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. today at the Columbus Room of Discovery Suites, a feel-good workshop for mothers, "Time Out For Mom," will be held, with these features: Cory Quirino on Health and Fitness; Maricel Laxa-Pangilinan on power dressing, and balancing family and career; Trish Briones of Shiseido on skincare for moms on the go, and Metro Working Mom's An Alcantara on quality time at home.

The day-long workshop is presented by Star World and ABS-CBN Publishing's Metro Working Mom, and hosted by Chiqui Roa-Puno of "Mommy Academy."

## Films on TV today

At 8 p.m. on Viva Cinema, "Abakada . . .Ina," directed by Eddie Garcia and starring Lorna Tolentino, Nida Blanca, Albert Martinez and Alicia Alonzo.

At 9 p.m. on Star Movies, "Jack" with Robin Williams, Fran Drescher and Bill Cosby.

At 9 p.m. on the Hallmark Channel, "Taking Back Our Town." Two women of very different backgrounds team up to protect their family and neighborhood.

Pat Melancon and Emelda West live in a town that is faced with the threat of toxic contamination from huge factories. They pursue their cause even if it means facing the wrath of a ruthless corporation.

# Villar's influence on the music industry continues to be felt

From page D4

### Artists

Artists like the Trio Los Panchos, Los Indios Tabajaras, Jack Jones, Jerry Vale, Joni James and Vickie Carr were frequent visitors to the Villar home, which had expanded as fast as Villar Records, with the birth of children Malu, Christine, Louie Jr., Elaine, Saripaz and Karen.

Villar Records ended up licensing for as many as 39 foreign labels, including RCA and Columbia Records, because of Louie's track record of honesty and professionalism in the industry.

Rosario credits Villar Records' success to Louie's decision to put quality before profit.

"I remember one time that he turned down the option to install new machines in the pressing plant at Del Monte because it would mean that 60 people would be displaced. Louie did not push through because he knew that so many families would be affected," Rosario says.

### Other businesses

But as famous as it was, the Villar Records had to give way to other businesses due to technological change. But the Villar influence on the music industry remains through Mareco Broadcasting Corp., the operator of the Crossover stations in Manila, Cebu, Baguio and Davao.

Louie Sr. has since turned over the business to his children, preferring to keep himself busy reading and enjoying his 10 grandchildren.

Rosario is still chairperson, with eldest daughter Malu as vice chairperson. Only son Louie Jr. is chief executive officer, with his sisters Christine, Elaine, Saripaz and Karen handling different parts of the business as vice presidents.

"We tried to pass on our values to our children and I am very proud to have a jewel of a son and daughters who are my treasures. I feel confident that they will never fight over money, now that it is their turn to run the business," Rosario says.

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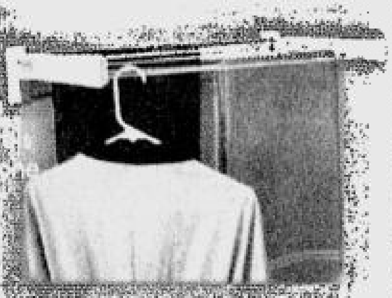

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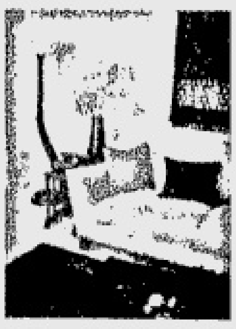

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# Aiza Seguerra's Mommy Caring knows best

By Remy M. Umerez

TOMORROW is Mother's Day and we focus our thoughts on the kind of mother Aiza Seguerra's mom, Mommy Caring, is.

To begin with, she is not the typical stage mother who knows better than record producers. Everytime she accompanies Aiza on promo tours, she simply stays in a corner and watches the show in quiet delight. She acknowledges with a smile people who approach her to express their admiration for her singing-idol daughter.

### New album

MG Mozo, executive producer of Aiza's new album "Pinakamamahal," has had no difficulty dealing with Mommy Caring after Aiza gained stardom with "Pagdating ng Panahon."

"We hear stories about how demanding both artists and their managers become after a successful album. Mommy Caring is a welcome exception to the rule. She was grateful for the break Vicor gave her daughter. It was what she had been dreaming of for Aiza.

"*Hindi naman* super singer status *ang* target *niya for* Aiza. She wanted her to resume recording because she believed her daughter had a good voice which needed to be polished. She pushed her to take up Music at UST and learn to play the guitar.

"She prayed that a record company would come to their rescue. She never lost hope after getting a lot of empty promises from some record outfits. She believed in us just as we believed in Aiza after listening to her when she was performing at Joekher Club in Cubao," she recalls.

### Plus factor

The cooperation Mommy Caring extends Vicor is another plus factor to explain why Aiza remains on top.

"Beforehand, she informs us about Aiza's schedule and blocks off some dates for recording sessions. When told that we needed Aiza for a full-blast promotions for "Pinakamamahal," she canceled some provincial shows. This shows she is not after the money, and we admire her for that," MG further reveals.

Nor is Mommy Caring the type of a manager who asks for a bonus after a hit album.

### Greatest wish

"Super" is how Aiza describes her mom, whose greatest wish is for Aiza to give her an "*apo*" someday.

Aiza says: "There is so much goodness in her heart and I always tell her not to be too trusting. A lot of people have taken advantage of her kindness. Mommy is the type who easily falls for a sob story."

Fear of God, respect for elders, and compassion for the poor are the three most important things Aiza has learned from her mom. Regardless of the situation, Aiza firmly believes in the saying, "Mother knows best."

**AIZA (second from left), with her family, Junnchie, Mommy Caring and Daddy Dick, showing off her Gold Record Award.**

# TV commercials that espouse the wrong values

By Nestor U. Torre

WHEN McDonald's first came out with its "daddy bribing daughter with French fries" commercial a few weeks ago, some viewers found it "cute" and "naughty." In time, however, less "cute"-oriented people pointed out that the spot made bribery look OK, so the commercial was eventually pulled from TV screens, and replaced with an older, less controversial spot.

### Decision

The complaints and eventual decision to "kill" the commercial have divided viewers. The commercial's fans say that it's just a lighthearted lark, no big deal. On the other hand, its critics insist that it promotes the wrong values. An additional problem is the fact that the kid in the spot is *very* young. What do *you* think?

For our part, we see this controversy as an opportunity for media and advertising people to review their policies when it comes to the values projected by the commercials they produce or telecast.

Our major worry, which is bigger than the problem with this one spot, is TV's penchant for using kids to sell products in the commercials it airs.

### Too vulnerable

We believe that children—and child advertising talents—should be shielded from commercial considerations precisely because they're too young and thus too vulnerable to know any better.

Kiddie advertising talents make great salespersons because they make child viewers envious and covetous of the products they advertise, so they badger their parents to buy them.

But it is precisely this covetousness and badgering that are problematic. Children should not be taught to be envious and covetous, they should not be trained to be "profitably" materialistic, and they should not be encouraged to be so desperate to keep up with their peers in terms of the trendy things they own and use.

### Change in attitude

The change in attitude we're asking for is admittedly a big one, but our children deserve nothing less. Why bicker over one spot, when there are dozens out there also espousing the wrong values?

Aside from these "child-unfriendly" spots, some TV commercials can also be faulted for equating success and beauty with superficial, quick-fix fantasies. An example is that shampoo commercial that subliminally says that, if you use that particular product, you will increase your chances of being offered a job as a TV newscaster. It absolutely doesn't follow, of course!

### Quick-fix aspect

People who like that spot may say that it's just a harmless fantasy, again no big deal, so we shouldn't nit-pick. But it's the quick-fix aspect that's troubling, because in the real world, jobs aren't offered to people who use the right, "magic" products.

Finally, we note the increasing use of sex, nudity and sexual innuendo to make some products look more desirable. Again, this is a non sequitur and promotes not just desirability but also passivity (if you're sexy, you can get anything, you don't have to work for it).

It also offends the sensibilities of some viewers, especially when the sexy spots are shown during daytime or primetime hours, when children are watching.

Of course, offended viewers can always get back by refusing to buy the product being improperly advertised. But the better way would be for TV channels and advertisers to practice self-regulation and police their own ranks, so products are advertised and sold without promoting the wrong values and otherwise adversely affecting the viewing public.

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PROMO MECHANICS

1. For every P200 worth of ad placement booked starting April 25, 2002 until May 11, 2002 for the Inquirer Classifieds Mother's Day Special Section on May 12, 2002, the customer is entitled to receive one (1) raffle coupon to the Mom Makeover raffle.
2. Fill up raffle coupon with your name, address, tel. no., your mother's name and affix signature, and drop in drop boxes located at Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts.,1231 Makati City.
3. Entries must be received by 5:00 pm of May 11, 2002 to qualify for the raffle draw during which 45 mothers/winners will receive any one (1) of the following:
   Fifteen (15) David's Salon gift certificates (consisting of shampoo, hair cut, blow-dry and hot oil services)
   Fifteen (15) Body and Soul Spa Treatments worth P2500
   Fifteen (15) Avon gift certificates worth P2000
4. The raffle draw will be held on May 17, 2002 at 3:00 pm at the PDI office in the presence of an official DTI representative.
5. An individual may send more than one entry but can only win once in the raffle draw. If drawn more than once, the winner gets the prize with the higher value.
6. Raffle prizes are non-transferable and not convertible to cash.
7. Raffle draw winners will be notified by phone and registered mail, and their names will be announced via print ads.
8. Winners can claim their prizes at the PDI office upon presentation of the notification letter and a valid ID.
9. Raffle prizes not claimed within 60 days from receipt of notification will be forfeited in favor of PDI with prior approval from DTI.
10. Gift Certificates are valid for one year and are acceptable at all branches.
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PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 1572, SERIES OF 2002.

# Elton John records video at Buckingham Palace for queen's jubilee concert

JOHN. Won't be around for June 3 concert.

LONDON—Sir Elton John performed at Buckingham Palace Friday last week, his spokesman said—but Queen Elizabeth II was not at home to hear him.

The singer recorded a song to be played at a concert in honor of the queen's golden jubilee on June 3. John will be on tour and unable to perform at the show, which will be held on the palace grounds.

### Disappointed

"Elton was disappointed that he couldn't be at the concert on June 3, and he wanted to do something special," a spokesman said on customary condition of anonymity.

He said John filmed a video in the Blue Drawing Room at Buckingham Palace. He did not say which song the star recorded.

The queen and her husband, Prince Philip, were not at the palace at the time.

The 76-year-old monarch is marking 50 years on the throne with a series of public events around the country, including a long weekend of parades, parties and concerts in London June 1-4.

### Two concerts

Two concerts—one classical and one pop—will be held on the palace lawn. The pop concert will feature stars such as Paul McCartney, Aretha Franklin and Eric Clapton. More than a million people have entered a ballot for the 12,000 free tickets for each show. *AP*

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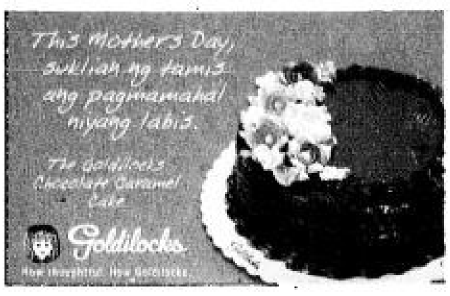
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# Multitalented Robert Duvall shoots for diversity in his roles

**By Jill Serjeant**

LOS ANGELES—Actor, director, screenwriter, producer, singer, tango dancer, Robert Duvall has done it all. But Robert Duvall, playing a Scottish soccer manager?

### Unconventional career

It's as much an unconventional career as unconventional casting for a man whose 40 years in the movie business have seen him play everything from a Mafia lawyer and a Pentecostal evangelist to Joseph Stalin and a washed-up country singer.

Mixing up roles, alternating between leads and character parts, is the way Duvall, 72, keeps himself fresh and his passion intact for the movies he really wants to make, and write, and direct, and finance.

"Somebody once said to me, you want to play the things that are in your dreams," said Duvall, explaining how he woke up one morning about 10 years ago with the idea of playing a Scottish soccer manager.

The result—"A Shot At Glory"—took six years to make its way from Duvall's imagination to the screen and another three to be released in the United States, where soccer is still a Cinderella sport.

### Soccer club

Produced by Duvall's own Butchers Run Films, the movie charts the David versus Goliath story of a lowly Scottish soccer club on an unlikely journey to the Scottish Cup final.

Duvall plays the gruff, stubborn manager Gordon McLeod, wielding an accent that he said took 10 months to master.

One of Duvall's proudest achievements is using nonprofessional actors to play the soccer players, including beloved Scottish Rangers striker Ally McCoist in his film debut as a washed-up soccer star.

"Ally McCoist walked across the lobby and we said, 'We'll put him in the movie,' without a screen test. We knew that was it."

**DUVALL. Actor, director, producer, singer—and tango dancer!**

"I had talked with guys like Russell Crowe, who was busy anyway. But as good an actor as those guys might be, they can't do what these guys can do on or off the field—that's the beauty of it," Duvall said.

The quest to make it real and keep it fresh also dominated Duvall's next personal project—the movie "Assassination Tango," which he wrote, directed, starred in, and danced in.

Duvall found a showcase for his musical talents in "Tender Mercies," the 1983 movie in which he wrote and performed his own songs and which finally brought him a best actor Oscar after previous nominations for "The Godfather" and "Apocalypse Now."

### Singing voice

Duvall dismisses his singing voice, recalling an album he made in the 1980s with the help of Waylon Jennings and Johnny Cash, which was never released.

But the tango long has been a consuming passion, marked by a chairmanship of the US Tango Academy, numerous visits to Argentina, and stunning displays at the White House during state dinners for South American visitors.

"The tango is the most misunderstood dance in the world. The extreme is the rose in the teeth, sexual and dramatic. But there are different manifestations, and it has always been caricatured and overdone for me," said Duvall.

"So I have gone to the real source and drawn my own story from that. There is enough tango to make it work, but none of that overly dramatic stuff," he said.

Duvall plays a hit man who is sent to Argentina on a job but finding himself delayed there, becomes seduced by tango dancing. The movie is due out in the autumn and also features nonprofessional actors, including Duvall's Argentine girlfriend Luciana Pedraza.

### Classes

"Once you get those non-actors to a certain point, they can put the professional actor on notice . . . At what point do you come home and say, 'Now I am an actor'—because you took some classes? Who's to say?"

"People get this misconception about the 'professional actor' who comes to work, punches the clock, nine to five, doesn't cause problems. And yet a lot of the times, he brings nothing to the table fresh," said Duvall.

Despite chiseled looks that biographer Leonard Maltin once said would not look out of place on Mount Rushmore, Duvall has never suffered from typecasting.

His other recent roles include a car mechanic in "Gone in Sixty Seconds" and a police negotiator in "John Q." He has just completed a role as Civil War Gen. Robert E. Lee, of whom Duvall is a direct descendant.

"I like to work. I'm going off to do a Western with Kevin Costner next. Each movie is diverse from the other. You always look to find fresh things to do," he said. ***Reuters***

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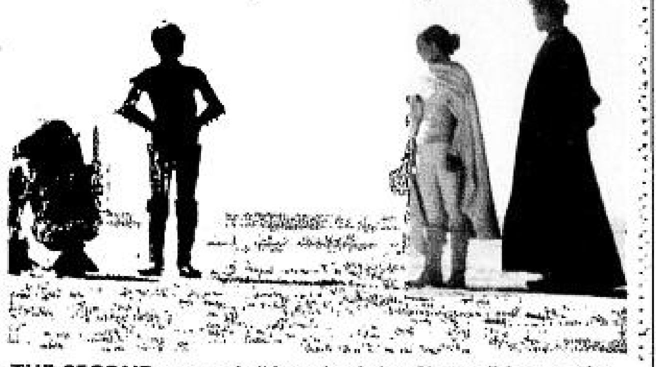
'Star Wars' fans wait for tickets weeks before 'Episode II' opening



**THE SECOND prequel, "Attack of the Clones," is eagerly awaited by the film series' diehard fans.**

# *Blame it on the Force*

**By Eugene Tong**

LOS ANGELES—Diehard "Star Wars" fans started lining up to see the next movie in the sci-fi saga—more than a month before it opens.

### Persistent

"We're just really persistent people," said Luis Lecca, a martial arts instructor who has spent eight hours a day waiting and braving hecklers. "We see something we want to do and we do it."

About two weeks ago, some 70 fans organized by the website LiningUp.net pitched camp near the landmark Grauman's Chinese Theater, where the original "Star Wars" premiered in 1977.

They'll wait there in shifts to see the first show when "Star Wars: Episode II-Attack of the Clones" opens May 16.

The ritual began in 1999 when fans, some from as far away as Australia, organized to form a ticket line six weeks before the latest film in the series opened, said event organizer Peter Genovese, a 26-year-old college student.

### Final line

Participants earn time on the line. The amount of time each spends waiting determines their position in the final line when tickets are sold, Genovese said.

Members of the group also are required to donate least $50 for the Starlight Children's Foundation, a nonprofit organization working with seriously ill children and their families.

When the latest film in the series, "Star Wars: Episode I-The Phantom Menace," premiered in 1999, a line of 150 people collected about $25,000 for the charity, Genovese said.

Among six people lounging on the street was Steve Elms, a computer network operator. Keeping contact with his boss through a cellular phone, he plans to camp out for the first week and the final week.

"I have no place else to go," said Elms, 39. "It's just fun sitting on Hollywood Boulevard watching the freaks and the tourists walk by." ***AP***

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# Parade of acting greats marks silver edition of Urian awards

A PARADE of winners in the acting categories of the last 24 years will be the highlight of the silver edition of the Gawad Urian, the critics' awards, today at 7 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum. The awards, which will put a colorful close to the exciting annual awards season in the movies, will be broadcast over RPN-9.

### Barometer

Handed out by the highly respected Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino, the Gawad Urian is considered the most definitive barometer of excellence in Philippine cinema.

To celebrate its 25th anniversary, the Manunuri will roll out the red carpet for the stars and other movers of Philippine cinema. Fans and television viewers will be afforded a glittering view of show-biz celebrities as they make their red-carpet entrance to the Coliseum.

The parade of winners will be introduced by segment host Richard Gomez, voted the top actor of the 1990s during the Gawad Dekada last year. Sharon Cuneta and Kris Aquino will host other segments. Anchors are Gelli de Belen and Ryan Agoncillo. Master of ceremonies is Edu Manzano.

### Tribute

Another highlight is the tribute to Fernando Poe Jr., who will receive the Natatanging Gawad (Lifetime Achievement Award) for his nearly five decades of accomplishments as actor, director, producer, film conservator and movie industry leader.

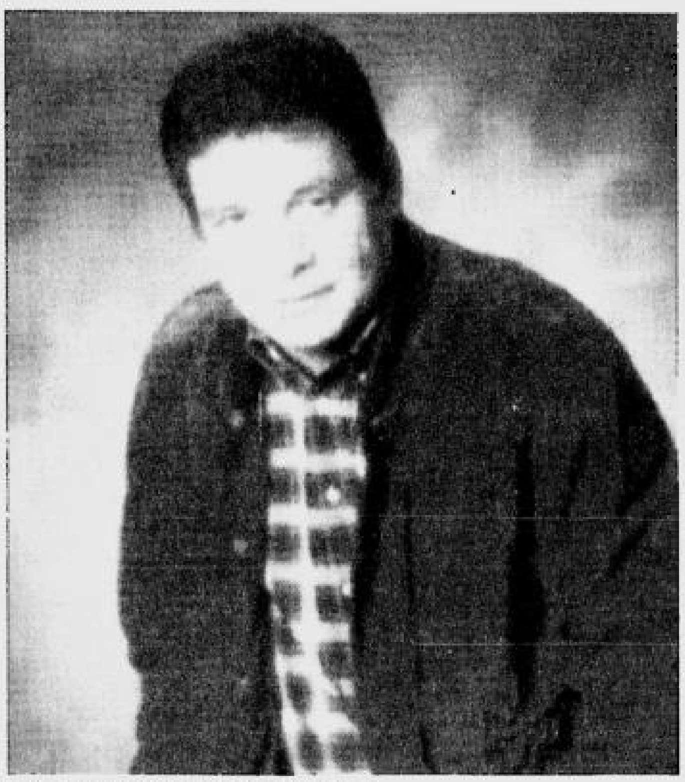
Still another much-awaited highlight is the naming of the Top 10 movies of the last 30 years in the Gawad Pinilakan. The Gawad Pinilakan is the result of extensive polling of present and past members of the Manunuri. Chair of the poll is Manunuri founding chair Bienvenido Lumbera, the 1993 Ramon Magsaysay laureate.

Multi-Urian winners Lorna Tolentino, Christopher de Leon and Philip Salvador will announce the Top 10 movies of the Gawad Pinilakan.

Nora Aunor and Vilma Santos, the "winningest" actors in the history of the Urian, lead the list of presenters that includes Maricel Soriano, Eddie Garcia, Gloria Romero, Cogie Domingo, Sunshine Dizon, Roxanne Barcelo, Biboy Ramirez, Helen Gamboa and Pilar Pilapil.

### Opening number

Janno Gibbs will lead the opening number, a rousing tribute to the various Philippine film genres. Other performers are Aiza Seguerra, Jolina Magdangal, Sunshine Cruz, Geneva Cruz, Allan K, Streetboys, Regine Tolentino, Francis Magalona, Grace Nono, Joey Ayala, Diane de la Fuente, Carol Banawa, Dulce, Bituin Escalante and the UP Concert Chorus.


FPJ. Lifetime Achievement awardee.

Unique among awards ceremonies, the 25th Gawad Urian will have a live orchestra to render numbers.

Five celebrated movies are competing for best picture: Chito Rono's underworld study "La Vida Rosa" (Star Cinema), Lav Diaz's five-hour expatriate murder mystery "Batang Westside" (JCMC), Jose Javier Reyes's controversial "Live Show" (Regal Films) and poignant "Minsan May Isang Puso" (Regal), and Joel Lamangan's social drama "Hubog" (MACQ and Regal)

### Best actress nominees

Nominated for best actress are Maricel Soriano ("Mila"), Rosanna Roces ("La Vida Rosa"), Assunta de Rossi ("Hubog"), Jaclyn Jose ("Minsan May Isang Puso") and Mylene Dizon ("Gatas").

Nominated for best actor are Joel Torre ("Westside"), Diether Ocampo ("La Vida"), Paolo Rivero ("Live Show"), Carlo Aquino and Ricky Davao ("Minsan"), Cesar Montano ("Bagong Buwan"), and Mark Anthony Fernandez ("Dos Ekis").

Nominees for best supporting actress are Gloria Diaz and Priscilla Almeda ("Westside"), Liza Lorena ("La Vida"), Klaudia Koronel and Hazel Espinosa ("Live Show), and Alessandra de Rossi ("Hubog").

The nominees for best supporting actor are Raul Arellano ("Westside"), Jiro Mano ("La Vida"), Simon Ibarra ("Live Show"), Wendell Ramos and Jay Manalo ("Hubog"), and Carlo Munoz ("Yamashita, the Tiger's Treasure").

Sponsored by Sunsilk, Touch Mobile, U-Care Milk, Chowking, Alaska and Tide, the 25th Gawad Urian is produced by Antonio Tuviera's APT Entertainment Inc. Executive producer is Malou Choa Fragal and director is Ma. Elena Rivera. The set is by Ronnie de Leon and the music is Mel Villena. Noel Ferrer wrote the script. Talent coordinator is Jojo Gabinete.

The Manunuri is chaired by Mario Hernando, Sunday Malaya editor, Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) member, and UST lecturer. Vice chair is Gigi Alfonso of the UP College of Mass Communication. Secretary-treasurer is Lito Zulueta, Inquirer editor and UST professor.

Members are Lumbera, broadcast personality Butch Francisco, former MTRCB chair Nicanor Tiongson, UP-CMC Dean Ellen Paglinauan, UP-CMC professor Rolando Tolentino, and De la Salle University Communication department chair Bro. Miguel Rapatan, FSC.

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# Judy helps Dingdong make it as a film star

By Nestor U. Torre

SANTOS. Different role.

ONCE again, Judy Ann Santos is being cast in a movie to boost the box-office chances of a relatively new young actor, this time in the person of Dingdong Dantes. Let's hope that Judy Ann will be more successful in getting him accepted by the fans than she was in her less than successful big-screen outings with Jinggoy Estrada and Mikey Arroyo.

### Security guard

In her forthcoming movie with Dingdong, Judy Ann plays a security guard who has a big crush on the handsome young man, who initially doesn't even know she exists. It's the poor-rich, romantic attraction-repulsion film format all over again, but it could still work this nth time around, if the two young leads have the right "chemistry."

Dingdong could make it as a young movie star because he's waited years before making his big-screen gambit. He's honed his acting skills on TV and won a number of fans in the process, so he's paid his dues.

But his launching film with Judy Ann still needs to be extra-special for him to make it in a big way. It won't do for him to just come off as the new millennium's latest clone of Gabby Concepcion, whom he resembles.

### Level of popularity

For her part, Judy Ann will have her work cut out for herself in pulling Dingdong up to her level of popularity in movie fans' eyes. Well, that's why she's getting paid a lot for her services, which sometimes include not just acting but also helping make stars out of relative unknowns, deserving or undeserving, as the case may be. That can get to be quite—exhausting!

Thank goodness, in her other new movie, "Magkakapatid," Judy Ann doesn't have to "carry" the production pretty much by herself. Her co-star is an even bigger draw than she is—Sharon Cuneta.

They play sisters at odds with each other in the promising drama, which should get their performances noticed by film awards groups next year.

### Pairing

What's great about this Sharon-Judy Ann pairing is that it's bound to be more than the sum of its parts. Sharon and Judy Ann are popular in their own right but, if they click in their film, its showing at the box office could be more than just double what their solo movies make.

This is the reason why movie producers are prepared to pay so much money for such big-star combinations. First-time pairings like this Sharon-Judy Ann project are "must-see" movie events that many viewers feel they can't afford to miss, or else they'll be left out of local cinema's happening scene.

### Problems

Even better, the two stars play roles that are rather different from their usual portrayals. Judy Ann is married, with children, and has to contend with the many problems prematurely heaped on her young shoulders, while Sharon's character is uncharacteristically sour and even shrewish.

In the past, such deviations from the familiar norm could be considered risky, but today's audiences dote on fresh approaches and eagerly reward them with their patronage. If Sharon and Judy Ann play their thespic cards right, "Magkakapatid" could end up as one of their biggest hits and career bests.

First, however, Judy Ann has to help Dingdong Dantes make it as local movies' latest bankable young leading man!

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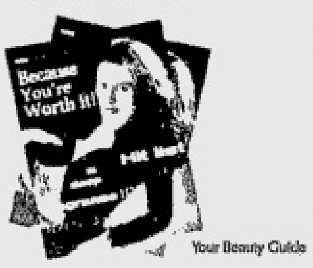

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# Three sisters

## FACE TO FACE

*Inday Badiday*

THROUGH the years, show business has had a slew of siblings, particularly sisters, who achieved varying degrees of celluloid fame and fortune—Susan Roces and Rosemarie Sonora, Tina and Marites Revilla, Gloria and Rio Diaz, Nova Villa and Tia Pusit, Vilma and Winnie Santos, Jacklyn Jose and Veronica Jones, Nadia and Tania Montenegro, Lotlot and Matet de Leon, Rachel and Lani Lobangco, Melissa Mendez and Glenda Garcia, Sharmaine Arnaiz and Bunny Paras, Assunta and Alessandra de Rossi, Paula and Rica Perajelo, and the hands-down most controversial of them all, the Barretto sisters Gretchen, Marjorie and Claudine.

### Fierce loyalty

In the wake of Rico Yan's most untimely demise, national disdain has been heaped on the closeness and fierce loyalty that the Barrettos have for each other. Many people sniffed at the way Gretchen and Marjorie rallied to the defense of their grieving sister Claudine, calling them publicity hounds who seized every opportunity to draw attention to themselves and squeezed every juicy drop of media mileage from the pulp of Rico's death.

But the Barretto sisters have always squarely stood for each other, right or wrong, all through the decade and a half or so that they've been in this business. They are all fiercely independent, highly opinionated and individualistic but, whenever the going gets rough, the battle of one becomes the battle of all—they band and take on the world together.

### Filipino trait

Now, there should be nothing wrong with that, should there? Filial loyalty is a uniquely Filipino trait that has augured well for us, especially in times of severe crisis and tragedy. Why then must the Barrettos be faulted for doing something good? As Claudine pleaded so "angstily" that it pinched my heart, "Why do they want us to apologize for being there for each other? *Eh ganun po talaga kami.* That's what we are. That's what family is for."

Marjorie explained, "Actually, we have trust in each other's capacity to fight and fend for herself. It is only when we see that the odds have become so unfair that we volt in. We know where to draw the line."

The line has been drawn quite a number of times already. Like, when Marj bore a child out of wedlock but the father refused to live up to his responsibilities, there was a sneer in everyone's heart for her and her baby. I remember an interview with Gretchen then and what she said struck me like a sledgehammer: "It was a wrong situation, it was with the wrong man. But the child could never be wrong. Whatever the circumstances, the child is a blessing."

And she cried when asked to speak to the infant in her sister's womb: "You are loved. You are wanted. Don't ever believe people who tell you otherwise. Your father may abandon you, the whole world may abandon you, but we shall always and forever be there for you, whatever happens."

### Love affair

There was also the time when Gretchen started to get embroiled in the very controversial love affair that had real life imitating soap. People called her all sorts of colorful names that were invariably synonymous with "villainess." In a private conversation, Marj gleefully spat out, "People can eat their hearts out and turn green with envy but they cannot do anything. Gretchen and Tonyboy are just so in love!"

That was also about the same time when Gretch sat on the hot seat during the infamous filmfest scam, which dealt the industry a blow so hard that it triggered public disaffection for show business that continues to this day.

CLAUDINE, Gretchen and Marjorie Barretto are always there for each other.

Ironically, before her vindication, which hailed her as the filmfest heroine, she was pilloried for being a squealer, a traitor, breaking the unwritten code of silence, and spilling the beans on her colleagues. During those times, Gretch drew from the bottomless reservoir of strength that her family provided.

### Cruel and unfair

It was Claudine's turn to draw from that same source during the tumultuous series of events that followed Rico's passing. As Marj put it, "It was very clear that she couldn't fight for herself, and we had to do it for her—especially when the attacks turned very cruel and unfair. A lot of very painful things were said and done and Claudine couldn't protect herself because she was in mourning. Who should take the cudgels up for her but us?"

As for Gretchen, she did admit to us during the press conference for Plains and Prints, of which she's the image model, "Yes, for a time there, I was angry. Very angry. Nobody should be made to go through the cruelty that some people made Claudine go through. It was so un-Christian."

One thing that can be said for the Barretto sisters, they fight their battles well and they have the knack for eventually emerging from them bruised and battered but wiser and stronger, and always victorious.

Marj has settled down to marital bliss with Dennis Padilla. Gretch has found her piece of heaven on earth and, judging from the permanent smile on her face, seems to be in a perpetual state of ecstasy with her beloved Tonyboy and their daughter.

### Intrigue

Especially now that she has successfully reentered show business via ABS-CBN's "Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan," topbilled by sister Claudine. "Although I have adjusted quite well to a life away from public scrutiny, I can't deny that show biz is in my veins. There was a time when I missed it so much that I also missed the intrigue, scandals and controversies (laughs)—I'm just so happy to be back."

As for Claudine, when all the dust settled, she emerged as the victor. Through the tears, the grit of a true warrior and the poise of a real lady glowed. And, whatever trials destiny still has in store for her, it's now very clear in everybody's mind that she has the stuff of which winners are made.

# 'Click' graduates move on

By Remy M. Umerez

TELEDRAMAS have become a way of life for the numerous talents of GMA, a venue for them to hone their acting skills. This is true in the case of Roxanne Barcelo, James Blanco and Biboy Ramirez, who have bade "Click" goodbye to move on to another soap series.

### Principal characters

Roxanne, James and Biboy are the principal characters in the new afternoon melodrama, "Kahit Kailan."

Seventeen-year-old Roxanne spent 12 years of her life in Virginia, USA. She speaks Tagalog fluently because they use the dialect at home.

Her biggest dream is to be a singer and it became a reality when she joined GMS's Metropop contest a few years back. She placed second with her winning piece, "Part of Your World," which she rendered in a jazzy manner.

As one of the original members of "Click," she formed a love team with Biboy Ramirez.

She makes use of her singing skill on "SOP," and dreams of waxing her debut album. She is now a second year Communication Arts student.

### Loner

It is hard to imagine how a shy and silent guy like James Blanco would become a performer. James, who is a loner (his daily routine is home, taping, school and home) never imagined he would become an actor. But, since destiny has willed it, he has learned to enjoy and appreciate his life in show biz.

Two years in the biz has given the young comer four commercials, two full-length movies ("Cool Dudes" and "Bahay Ni Lola") and two *teleseryes*.

James considers acting fun and absorbing. "It is not that simple to bury yourself into another character, specially if you portray someone who's the opposite of what you are in real life," he observes.

He values the company of veteran stars like Gina Pareño, Rita Avila, Ricardo Cepeda, Carmi Martin, and Allan Paule, who makes it easier for newcomers like him to enact a scene. He singles out Gina Pareño for her motherly treatment of the younger cast members.

"She always advises us to be professional and to save because show business won't last forever—and she says she's speaking from sad experience."

### Commercial

The show biz career of Biboy Ramirez started when he was only 10 years old, by way of a sardine product commercial he did with the late Helen Vela.

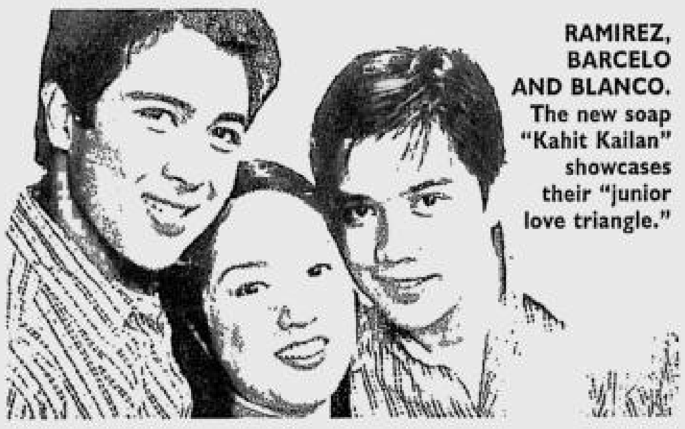
Later, he found himself in GMA's "Best Friends" (followed by "Click") and the bonding became so close that he decided not to leave GMA-7. He was encouraged to take a workshop to learn the basics of acting.

Unlike James, who was introduced in "Cool Dudes," the only movie Biboy has appeared in is "Okat Tokat." He's taking up Computer Programming.

The three graduates of "Click" have created a junior love triangle in "Kahit Kailan."

The show's story revolves around Eden (Roxanne) and Luis (Biboy), childhood sweethearts who vow to love each other until death. Luis' world crumbles when his half-brother Victor (James) enters the scene and not only ruins his relationship with his parents but also threatens to steal the girl he loves.

"Kahit Kailan" airs every Sunday at 2:30 p.m. on GMA-7, replacing "Anna Karenina."



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TWO FOR THE SHOW

# Basil Valdez sings his heart out

By Mary Ann A. Bautista
and Ricky T. Gallardo

PREMIER balladeer Basil Valdez set a record of sorts during his concert at the Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Hotel last May 2. He sang 33 songs, including seven encore numbers. Basil was overwhelmed by the reception he got.

With maestro Ryan Cayabyab calling the musical shots, Basil opened with a Barry Manilow medley and set the mood with his collection of most-often-sung wedding songs.

He's celebrating his 20th year in the music industry so he tried to do one song per year. He paid tribute to his musical director and did "Nais Ko," "Paraisong Parisukat," "Kahit Ika'y Panaginip Lang" and "Iduyan Mo." Melancholy mixed with joy and happiness capped each rendition.

The momentum was broken when Basil took a five-minute break to drink Peh Pah Khowa and Ryan jammed with the audience and sang tunes like "If You Need Me Now," "I Love You More Each Day Than Yesterday," "Kiss the Night Goodbye," "Man-eater," "Time After Time," and "Won't Last A Day Without You."

"Ngayon at Kailan Man," "Kastilyong Buhangin," "You" and "Hanggang Sa Dulo Ng Walang Hanggan" sent shivers down our spines. The show ended past midnight but the audience loved every minute of it.

### Pops enjoys being a mother

Despite her busy schedule, Pops Fernandez finds time to be with her friends and kids. "I try to get together with my *barkada* (Liezel and Albert Martinez, Aga Muhlach, Charlene Gonzales, Franco Laurel) once a month. When we get together, it's really a big thing because we're all so busy, but we call or text each other.

"With my kids Robin and Ram, we usually work out together, watch movies and eat out. I make sure that I teach them to eat "real" food. Sometimes I bake for them."

Pops adores her kids and admits to being protective when it comes to their welfare. "*Sana hindi* show business *ang magiging* career *nila*. I want Robin and Ram to have something more stable, regular and normal," Pops sighs.

Like a typical mom, Pops' face lights up when she talks about her sons. How would she describe her kids? What are their similarities and differences?

"Robin is like me, very quiet, sensitive but funny. He's a very protective *kuya*. Whereas Ram is similar to Martin (Nievera), he's expressive, demonstrative, he loves to talk and tell stories.

"They love each other. They like cartoons, video games and watching movies," Pops grins.

VALDEZ. 33 songs in one concert.

### Looking forward to more 'Sex and the City' episodes

We are delighted to know that our favorite coosome foursome on TV will be back with all-new episodes of "Sex and the City" starting next Tuesday.

A few weeks ago, we were bothered to learn that producer and star Sarah Jessica Parker might put a sudden stop to her highly touted series when she found out she was pregnant with hubby Matthew Broderick's baby. But we also learned from the net that all is well now with the show, and the fun continues.

Expect the married life of Charlotte and Trey to finally sizzle with a lot of steamy lovemaking now that Trey's erectile dysfunction problem has been analyzed and solved. Will Samantha start to mellow and give up her reign as the queen of sleaze? What happens when Carrie's boyfriend Aidan realizes that he isn't complete without her? And will feisty and funky lawyer Miranda finally find her match? Stay tuned!

### 'Probe's' Robert Alejandro flies high

The "The Probe Team" has found an ace reporter in Robert Alejandro, who presents his subjects in a consistently interesting manner, without allowing his strong physical presence to distract from the topics.

Whether he is tackling serious or fun themes, like his recent daredevil skydiving episode, Alejandro gets really involved with his subject, making viewers feel that he knows, feels and understands what he is talking about. He is not just a presenter but an active participant.

### Is the 'prize slash' justified?

When we saw the "call for entries" print ad of ABS-CBN for its annual songwriting contest, we noticed that it has slashed the prizes way below the acceptable level.

BASIL/ p.E5

## Basil . . .

From page E4

For two consecutive years now, the pot was a hefty P500,000 for the grand winner and P200,000 for the popularity categories. This year, we hear that the grand prize winner will receive only P200,000.

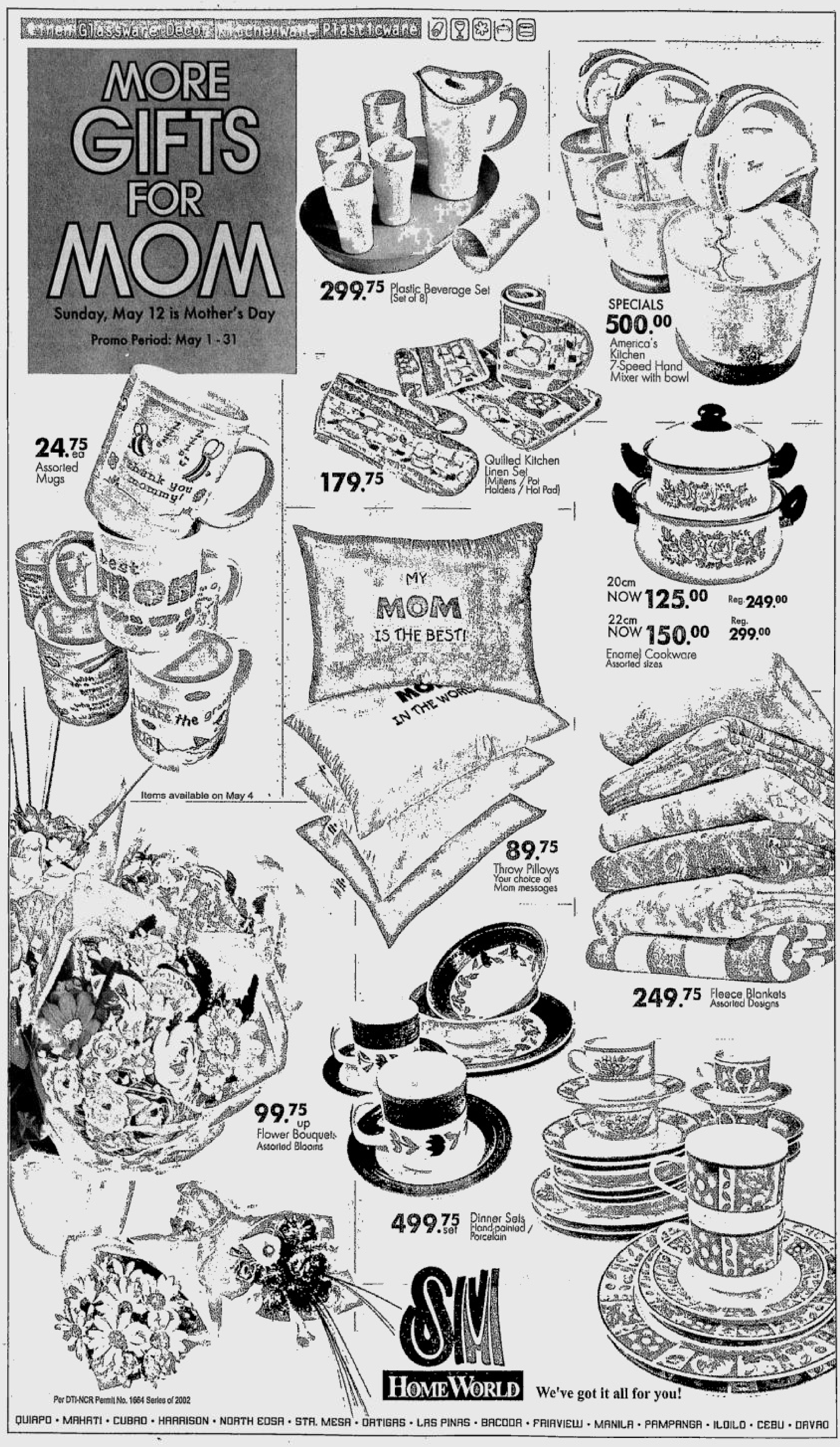
We understand that times are hard, but don't you think that there are other areas where these savings strategies are more justified?

They give away millions and millions in cash prizes in game shows and pay huge talent fees to their stable of young stars, even if some of them can't act or sing, so they shouldn't scrimp on songwriting prizes.

### Beauties with a purpose

Tomorrow, a different Miss Philippines will be crowned. Twenty-three candidates from all over the country are vying for the title of Miss Earth Philippines, the winner of which will represent the country in the Miss Earth International Beauty Pageant, where the love for and preservation of Mother Earth is the main thrust.

For a country like ours so obsessed with beauty pageants, the environmental angle has made such contests more tolerable and acceptable.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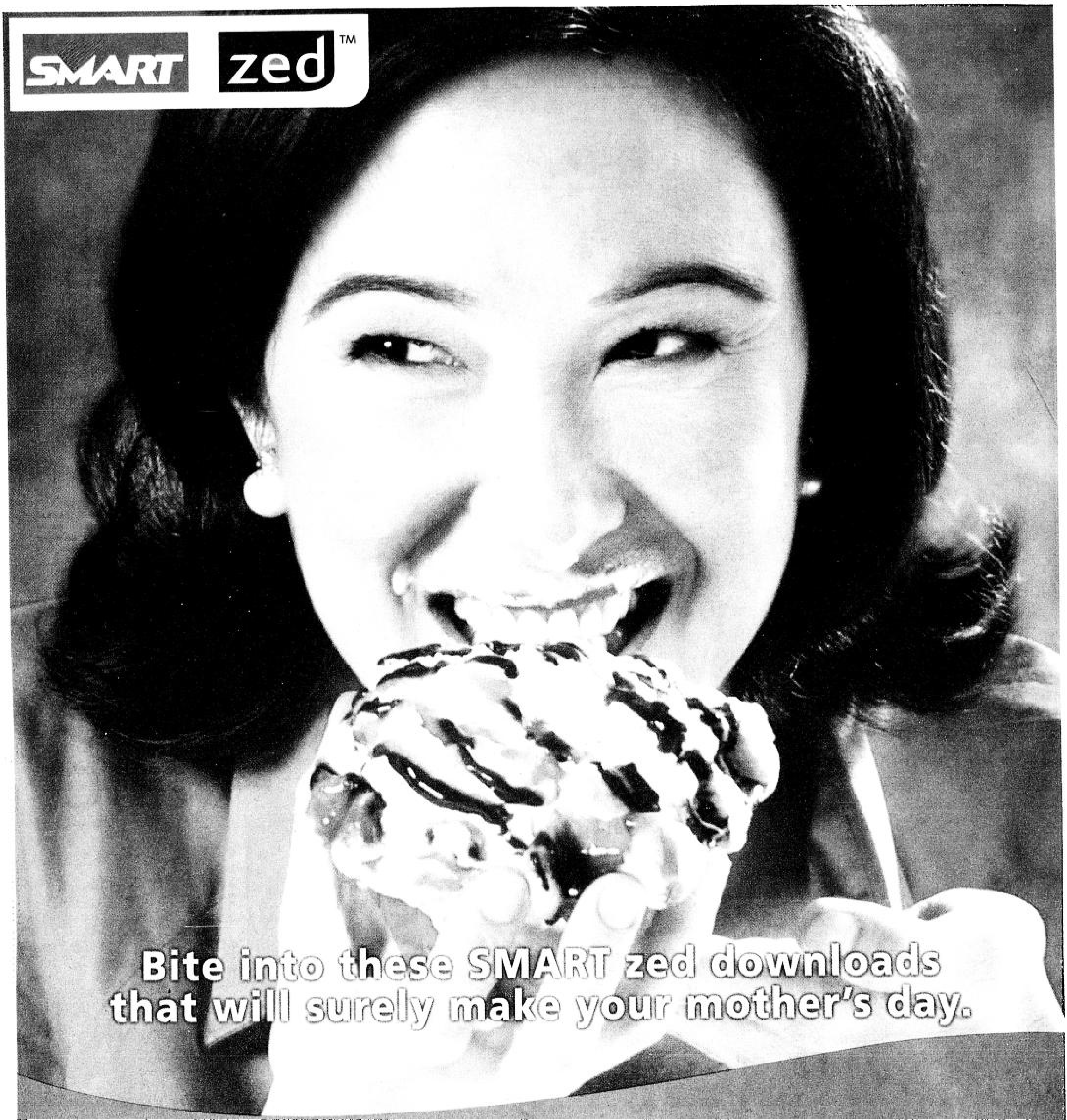
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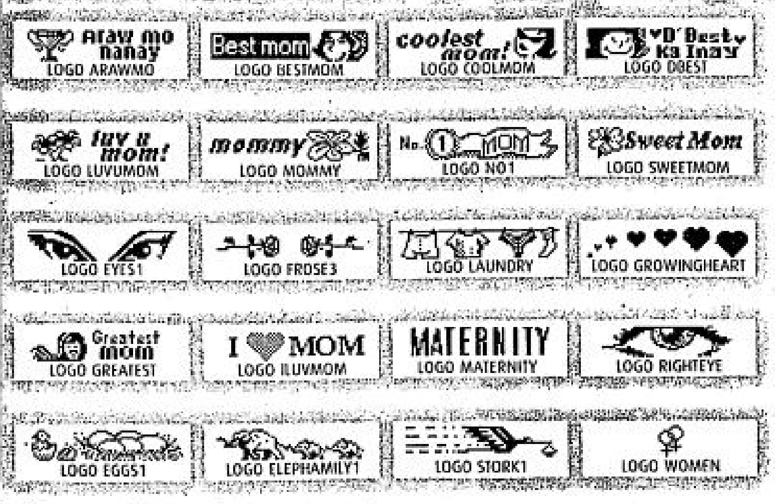
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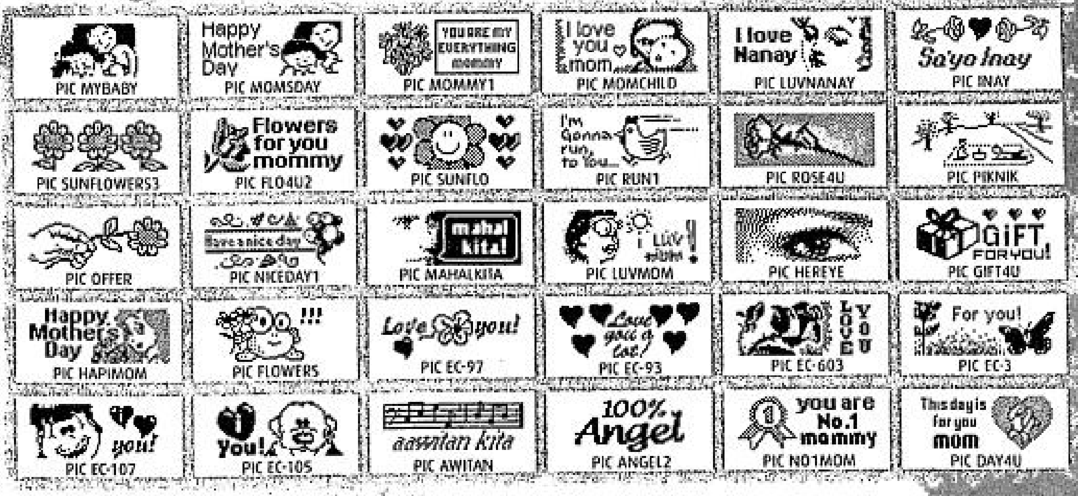
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PIC MAHALKITA
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Love you a lot!
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LOVE YOU
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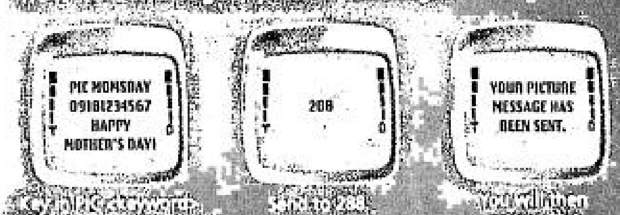
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# Piolo Pascual romances Joyce Jimenez

**By Edmund L. Sicam**

PIOLO Pascual has a new movie with Joyce Jimenez, "I Think I'm In Love," produced by Regal and directed by Maryo de los Reyes. And because it's Joyce, one must ask, just how much skin does she expose in this movie? Don't be disappointed, guys, but this is a light comedy *a la* Julia Roberts, not an R-rated adult film. They even cut out one of the love scenes just to make sure they got a G-rating from the MTRCB.

What was it like working with the sexy siren? "Joyce is very down-to-earth. She's the kind of person you can easily get along with. *Walang kiyeme, napaka-simple niya.* And she's very *makulit. Nakakatuwa siyang kasama sa* set. *Wala siyang kaere-ere;* she listens. And she's a good friend."

PIOLO / P. F2

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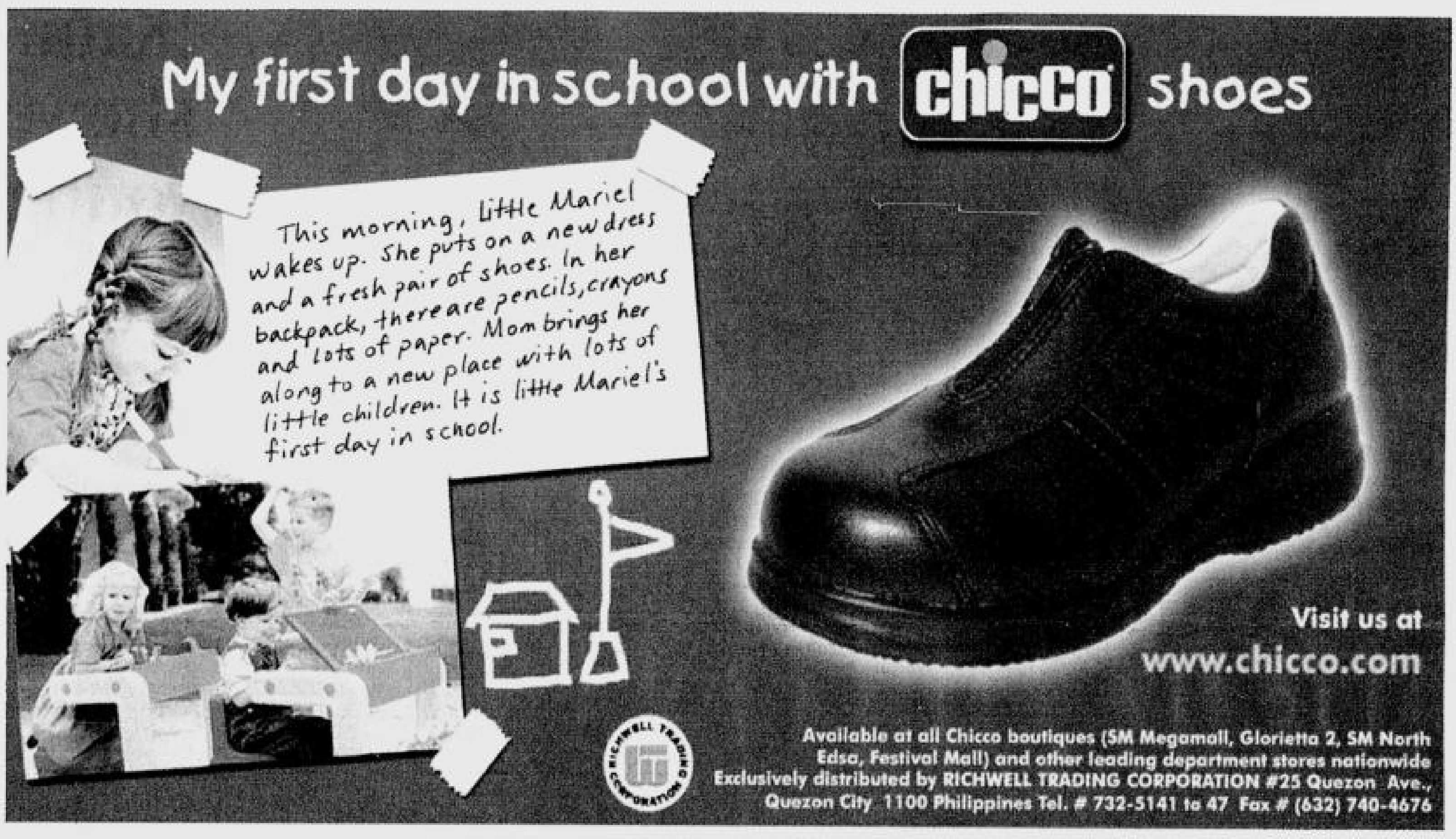
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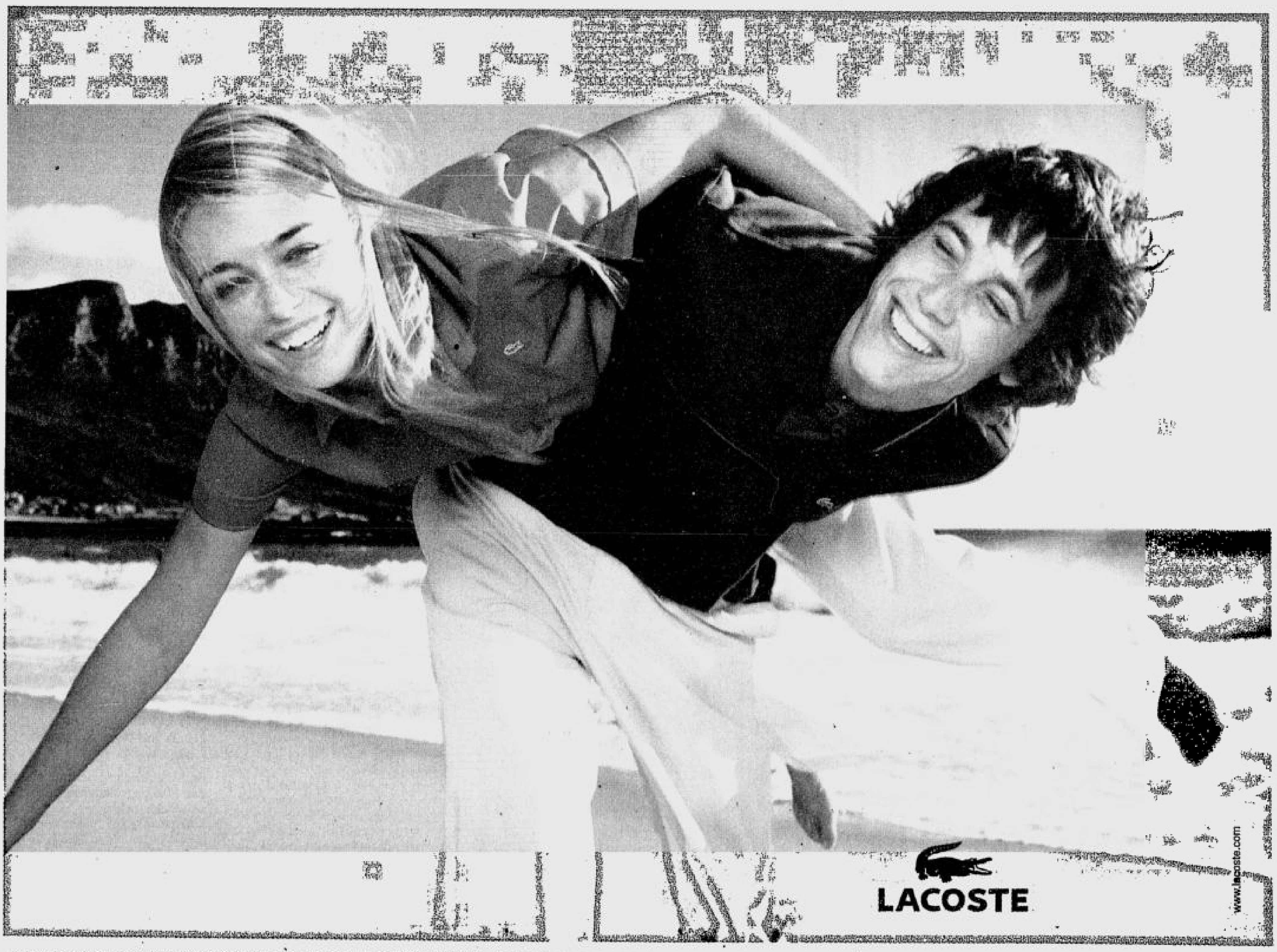

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# Most effective female 'kontrabidas' on TV cited

**By Noelani Torre**

THEY irritate, annoy and infuriate to the point when fans sometimes assault the poor actresses who play them. Still, irritating, annoying, and infuriating though they may be, *kontrabidas* are essential to the soap opera. A successful soap has to have effective *kontrabidas*. We may hate them, but we can't seem to do without them!

One cannot, after all, spend all of one's time sympathizing with the *bida*. We need someone to hate, to feel strongly about, to make the heroine more noble and long-suffering.

Who's the most chillingly effective female *kontrabida* in the world of Pinoy soap? Of the five respondents featured here, three voted for Mylene Dizon and two for Princess Punzalan. Let's see why:

### Good at being bad

"Mylene Dizon. *Baguhan lang siya*, but she's really good at being bad *mas magaling pa nga keysa sa mga mas matagal na sa kanya.* I like the way she slaps/spanks a person *kung naiinis siya. Nakakatuwa, pero mataray pa rin.*

"*Hindi siya katulad ni* Jean Garcia *na mataray pero* sophisticated at composed. *Si* Mylene, *walang pa*-composed-composed. All-out *ang pagpo*-project *niya ng* emotions *ng* character *niya. Yung tipong kung gusto ka niyang tadyakan, tatadyakan ka niya talaga.*

"*Si* Mylene *pwedeng 'disente' ang dating at pwede ding pang tipong bangketa. Di naman siya mukhang mataray sa totoong buhay (nakita ko na kasi siya dati sa* mall), *pero pag napapanood mo na siya sa* TV, *parang siyang-siya talaga ang* character *na pino*-portray *niya.* I think she's a competent actress." ***—Allen Katherine Lacson, 19***

### Perfect witch-bitch

"Princess Punzalan. Her facial expressions are really something else! When she looks at you, you really feel as though you're the one she's planning to kill. And her laugh! She sounds like a perfect witch-bitch when she does that.

"What I like is that she looks and sounds so natural as a *kontrabida*. She's an expert in shifting characters—she can be really sweet at first, practically a saint, and then before you know it, she's about to stab you in the back!

**DIZON.** Flashes her up-to-no-good look.

**PUNZALAN.** A natural at playing it evil.

"She's effective because she gives it her all. *Bigay-todo, ika nga.* Sometimes she even outshines the *bida*. Anyway, there would be no *bidas* if there were no *kontrabidas* in the first place, right?" ***—Ador Cruz, 31***

### Appearance

"I think that Mylene Dizon, who plays Sally in 'Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan,' is the most effective *kontrabida* on TV now. Even though you're not the one involved in the story, you still get very irritated with her character. Some of it is due to her appearance—silver contact lenses, bronze hair and make-up—the effect is not gentle at all, which suits the character she portrays.

"She makes what she does look so effortless. All it takes is a little smirk to get your blood boiling. *Masarap hambalusin talaga.* She can be very 'chameleonic.' Sometimes she acts goody-goody and it contrasts against and highlights her *kontrabida* attitude. *Bagay na bagay talaga sa kanya ang pagiging kontrabida.*

"Another thing that's distinct about her is the way she speaks—she's so playful sometimes that you find yourself getting amused. She doesn't over-act and she manages to give life to the script. Sometimes you even reach the point when you feel that you'd be capable of punching her in the face when you see her. And that's good because a *kontrabida* should really annoy the viewers!" ***—Pao Gonzales, 25***

### Movies

"Princess Punzalan. *Grabe! Sobrang nakakagigil kasi talaga siya.* I knew her *kasi* as *mabait* – her roles in the movies and on TV were always 'nice.' *Ibang-iba talaga sa ngayon—napakamaldita niya! Ibang klase din ang panggigigil mo, umaabot na sa* point *na gusto mo nang batuhin yung* TV set. *At parang wala pang ka*-effort-effort *ang pag-aarte niya ng gano'n.*

"*Lahat sa kanya* effective—make-up, *kilay, boses*, etc. *Di naman siya masamang tao sa totoong buhay pero pag nasa* TV *siya, pinapalabas niya na parang* nature *niya talaga ang pagiging kontrabida.*" ***—Sue Patsy Lo, 19***

### Evil personified

"Who else? Mylene Dizon! She's a *kontrabida* down to her very toenails! That up-to-no-good look in her eyes cuts through the TV screen and slices at your heart. Evil *na* evil *ang dating niya.* Actually, she's the reason why I watch 'Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan.' I want to know what she'll be up to next!

"Actually, she's really very pretty and she can look soft and sweet when she wants to—but when she's a *kontrabida*, watch out! It's like she's the embodiment of the *kontrabida* ideal, *kung meron mang gano'n.* It's because she uses everything she's got—looks, voice, mannerisms, facial expressions, *kahit mismong pagtayo, mala-demonya talaga ang dating!*" ***—Laeticia Tionco, 27***

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# MTV bares nominees for 'MTV Pilipinas 2002'

MTV Philippines recently announced the nominees of its "MTV Pilipinas 2002," an event that honors the best music videos in the Philippines. They are:

Best New Artist: Karylle, for "Can't Live Without You," Gabby Eigenmann for "Loving," Monsterbot for "Explosive," Gloc 9 for "Isang Araw," Jennifer Cuneta for "Chip On My Shoulder."

Best Group: Wolfgang for "Meckam," Rivermaya for "Umaaraw, Umuulan," Barbie's Cradle for "Money for Food," True Faith for "Sumarap Ang Gising," Cheese for "Mottaka."

### Best Male Artist finalists

Best Male: Gary Valenciano featuring Kyla for "Can We Just Stop And Talk A While," Janno Gibbs featuring Pilita Corrales for "Kapantay Ay Langit," Janno Gibbs featuring Pops Fernandez for "Say A little Prayer," Martin Nievera for "Imagine Me Without You," Gabby Eigenmann for "Loving."

Best Female: Karylle for "Can't Live Without You," Regine Velasquez for "To Reach You," Sharon Cuneta for "Where's the Good in Good-bye?" Kyla for "I Feel For You," Jaya for "Love Hurts."

Best Song: Barbie's Cradle for "Money for Food," Regine Velasquez for "To Reach You," Parokya ni Edgar for "Swimming Beach," Kyla for "I Feel For You," Rivermaya for "Umaaraw, Umuulan."

MTV Philippines announced that a new category will be introduced this year, the Favorite Love Ballad, which is being presented by Light Blue Dolce & Gabbana Parfum. This award will be voted on by industry judges, along with the awards for Best Director and Best Video.

### Special award

Pravin Asrani, general manager of sales and marketing for Prestige Products Distribution says, "With the great success of last year's MTV Pilipinas, we've decided to participate in this year's event by presenting this special award."

"MTV Pilipinas 2002" will be held on June 6 at the NBC Tent in Fort Bonifacio Global City.

Music lovers may vote for the categories for Best New Artist, Best Group, Best Male, Best Female and Best Song. Ballots are available at Music One, Tower Records, Odyssey, TGI Friday's, Outback Restaurant, Italiannis Restaurant, Tequila Joe's, California Pizza Kitchen, National Sports Grill, MTV Style Outlets, Jag stores and Dolce & Gabbana counters in leading department stores.

Votes may also be mailed to "MTV Pilipinas 2002" P.O. Box 1696, Makati Central Post Office, 1256 Makati City, Philippines. Voters may also fax their votes with their name, age, address and telephone number to (632) 633-5694, or e-mail them to mtvpilipinas@mtv-asia.com. Smart subscribers may text in their votes by keying in "MTV" in their cell phones and sending their text to 249.

The closing date for all votes is on May 24 and the lucky voters chosen by MTV Philippines will win exclusive tickets to the on-the-ground show.

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SWITCHING CHANNELS

# 'Kahit Kailan' showcases GMA's young talents

**By Edmund L. Sicam**

GMA-7 has replaced the long running soap, "Anna Karenina," a coproduction with Viva, with another tearjerker, "Kahit Kailan," airing Sundays at 2:30 p.m.

Unlike the star-studded "Kung Mawawala Ka," headlined by Eddie Garcia, this one features a lot of young, aspiring stars supported by character actors.

The story revolves around childhood sweethearts, played by Roxanne Barcelo and Biboy Ramirez, whose idyllic romance is shattered with the arrival of Biboy's half-brother played by James Blanco. Biboy was supposed to play another role in the soap with John Lloyd Cruz as the lead character. When that didn't pan out, Biboy stepped into John Lloyd's shoes.

The other new faces in the soap are Vince Reyes, Nancy Castiglione, Gerard Pizaras, Ina Feleo, Tootsie Guevarra, Miko Sotto, Jeff Geronimo, Maybelline de la Cruz and Mike Olivarez.

Soap regulars Gina Pareño and Carmi Martin play mortal enemies. Other veterans in the cast are Allan Paule, Rita Avila, Maritoni Fernandez, Ricardo Cepeda and Daniel Fernando.

Roxanne says she is "overwhelmed" by her new assignment. ""I am grateful to GMA for entrusting me with this important role. I promise to do justice to it," she gushes.

The actress is "*aping-api*" in this teledrama and gets quite a beating from character actress Jan Marini. When the physical scenes were being shot, Roxanne asked her mom, who accompanies her to tapings, not to watch lest she lose her focus in her acting. Maybe it's also because she didn't want her mom to get upset. Roxanne calls her the kindest soul in the world and definitely does not beat her up.

Speaking of mothers, we asked Ina Feleo, daughter of award-winning director Laurice Guillen, if she felt any pressure to excel as an actress because of her famous mom. Ina, who had a brief appearance in Guillen's "Tanging Yaman" as the ice-skater, says she still doesn't feel the pressure.

Earlier, she was introduced as the daughter of Laurice Guillen. We asked her how she felt about that. "Okay *lang*," she muttered. "*Sanay na naman ako diyan.*" Does she ask her mom for advice? "Her only advice to me is to play for truth," she said shyly.

Like most new actresses, Ina is still trying to learn the ropes. We could see, however, that she has the same intensity that her mom displayed during her acting days.

The show is directed by Ruel Bayani, who has worked with ABS-CBN before, leading one writer to comment that, probably, the young director is trying to prove something with his transfer to GMA-7. Bayani didn't bite, and instead explained that the objective of "Kahit Kailan" was to develop the young talents of the network in dramatic roles and give them opportunities to shine on the boob tube.

To avoid headaches, Bayani relied on veteran actors that he has worked with before and are reliable when it comes to tapings. He is quite happy with the show's cast.

### Fun for cellphone users

Cellphone users are getting all sorts of chances to win big prizes on TV shows. One show that uses the interactive feature

'KAHIT KAILAN' / P. F3

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# Piolo . . .

(From page F1)

### Bet

What's the movie about? "It's about a bet. My brother in law wants me to have a friendship with a girl without falling for her. If I lose, within three months, he gets my Porsche. So, I meet this girl, Joyce, she's a department store clerk, and she becomes our bet. I promise him I won't fall for her, and that's the story."

If he made a bet like that in real life, would he win it? "I wouldn't take that bet. Not for love. I think it's a stupid thing to do. *Kasi ang kalaban mo dun*, feelings *mo na, e.* What if you fall for the girl, which is what happens to me in the movie?"

But is it possible for him to get really close to a girl without falling for her? "Of course. I've had girl friends who are super close to me. *Kasi*, I think when you start with friendship, it's better *na* friends *na lang kayo, e.* For me, if you're girlfriend material, I wouldn't make a friend out of you. I wouldn't want to be your friend, because I'm going to court you right away. I wouldn't want to get sidetracked. I'm going to tell you right away, 'I want you to be my girlfriend.' And my intention is to be friends with you, I'll also make it clear."

**PIOLO** and Joyce in "I Think I'm in Love."

What in a girl makes her girlfriend rather than "just friends" material for Piolo? "I don't look at the face, I really am more into personality. There are times you're immediately *kilig*. Other times, it's when I get to know her better that I realize she's girlfriend material."

PIOLO / P. F3

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# 'Kahit Kailan' . . .

(From page F2)

**THE CAST** members of "S.O.P" and "Bubble Gang" joined "TXTRS 5" recently.

of the cellphone is "TXTRS 5," a production of GMA-7 and Globe Telecom that airs Sundays at 8 p.m. It is hosted by Paolo Bediones. Both studio contestants and home viewers can win.

In the studio, two competing teams use a giant-size replica of a Nokia 3350 to key in their answers to the questions by jumping on the correct letters. The team with the higher points advances to the Money Round, where each member individually keys in the answer. Then it's on to the Double-Your-Money round.

For its premiere telecast, stars of "Bubble Gang and "SOP" competed in the game. Actress Wilma Doesn't and TV star Sherilyn Reyes were the coaches. The winner was Wilma's team, which garnered a total cash prize of P 240,000.

To be a studio player, text in: your NAME<space>ADDRESS<space>AGE and send to 2303.

Globe s subscribers may also join two other texting games: Missing Lyric and Unscramble. Text in your answers using the format: ANSWER<space>NAME<space>ADDRESS and send to 2255.

In the Missing Lyric game, subscribers have to identify the missing lyric in a particular song., This is will be flashed during "K," the videoke game on GMA which airs Sundays at 7 p.m. before "TXTRS 5." Winners get a chance to win prizes ranging from P500,000 in cash to BMW cars.For the Unscramble game, a scrambled mystery word together with a clue will be flashed during the airing of "TXTRS 5."

In addition, all Globe subscribers get computer-generated virtual raffle points which will be included int the grand raffle draw.

Tomorrow, "TXTRS 5" features celebrity coaches Bobby Andrews and Anne Curtis.

# Piolo . . .

(From page F2)

So, does he believe in love at first sight? Has it actually happened? "Yeah. It's happened to me. I believe in destiny, I believe in love at first sight. It just happens *talaga*."

Piolo's a self-confessed romantic. He believes in the whole nine yards—chocolates, roses, romantic dinners, jewelry. He's even written love letters. "When I can't say it, I write it. I don't care if they're mushy."

## Traditional

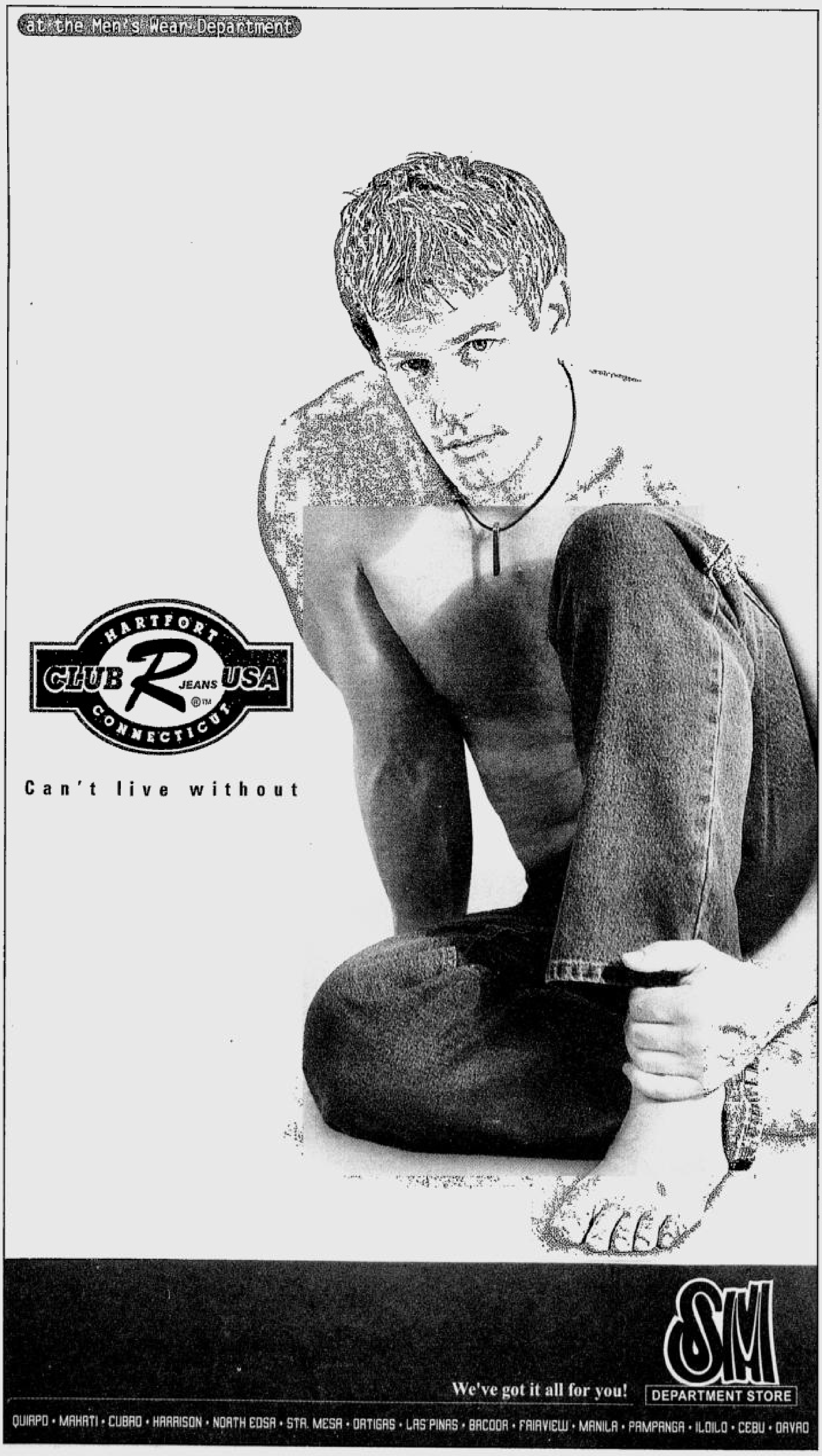
He's very traditional—he doesn't like aggressive women. But he concedes that the Filipina has grown over the years—"Filipinas have to adapt. They cannot forever be conservative. It's a plus factor, that women have come to know their worth, as equals with men. I just don't think that a girl should become aggressive because of it. *Huwag naman* more superior. *Pantay*."

How does he say I love you to a girl? "I go on instinct. Whatever I feel, I say it. If I feel like saying I love you, I say it. I choose the right place and time to be showy. But I really can be sweet. You can ask them . . . " he smiles.

## Inspiration

Isn't it hard to focus on just career? What inspires him? "My inspirations are my son, my work, the people who look up to me—*marami*."

Piolo has a philosophy in life and career that keeps him going: "I take care of myself. I try to be as honest and sincere as possible. And to be as realistic as I can be. It's hard to pretend. So I am myself. I am what I am. What they see is me, no pretentions. That's why I'm more open now. Because it's hard to be somebody you're not. Especially in this business, you won't last long. Sooner or later, people will realize who you really are."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ROCES. Loves to cook for her kids.

# Motherhood is worth all the pain and sacrifice for celebrity mommies

By Jocelyn Valle

**CHILDBIRTH supposedly ends the age-old debate on which is the stronger sex. But the session in the delivery room is just one aspect of motherhood. Prior to that, the mama-to-be undergoes tremendous changes in her body and afterwards, she either struggles to get back to her old form or she agonizes before accepting her new shape.**

### Maternity leave

And do you think she enjoys waking up in the middle of the night to change the baby's nappy? What about that promotion or the once-in-a-lifetime project that she missed because she was on maternity leave? But through all the pain and sacrifice, mothers always say that it's worth it.

For instance, it took a while before **Rosanna Roces** was able to admit to the public that she has a husband and two kids from previous relationships. She had to hide the truth so as not to jeopardize her career as a sexy star and, in the process, ensure the future of her little ones.

At the same time, her daughter Grace and son Onyok (now 13 and 12, respectively) couldn't understand the nature of their mother's job. Osang had to make them see that her success in show business was the family's ticket to financial security.

Osang was only able to breathe freely when her moment of truth came and the public understood her. She is happier now that her stable entertainment career and thriving business ventures (auto retailing and the Forever Flawless beauty center) have allowed her to not overwork herself again (like what she did at the height of her career).

### More time

"I have more time with my children now," she beams, adding that she no longer has to explain to Grace and Onyok the things that she does onscreen. She's evolved into a versatile and no-nonsense actress, thus earning the respect of the public.

Osang regrets not being able to finish her studies, so she's making sure her kids won't miss out on what she wasn't able to accomplish. "Education is my greatest gift to them," she states. "*Kahit saan nila gustong mag-aral, kahit sa* Europe."

Meantime, she's teaching them the values that are dear to her. "I don't want them to discriminate against or to look down on other people," she intimates, citing an incident when Grace disrespected a househelp and Osang was compelled to physically discipline her daughter. "*Ngayon may* 'please' *pa s'ya*

MOTHERHOOD/ p.G2

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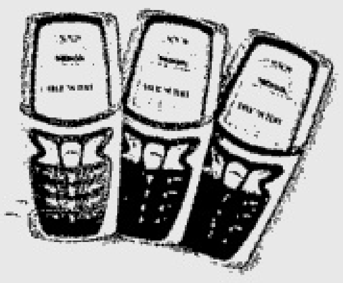

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CLIP AND SAVE

# 'Spider-Man' clicks with mix of comic book and soap opera elements

**By Nestor U. Torre**

"SPIDER-MAN" has spun a very wide and sticky web that has effectively placed millions of viewers under its spell. The movie stars Tobey Maguire as a "faceless" high school senior who is bullied by most of the guys on campus.

MAGUIRE. From pathetic nerd to lovable superhero.

### Pathetic nerd

However, his life as a pathetic nerd ends when a genetically souped-up spider bites him, thus imbuing him with superpowers that enable him to help people in danger.

His arch-nemesis turns out to be the father of his best friend. The power-mad entrepreneur has invented a jet-propelled, one-man glider that he uses to zap his business foes and wrest control of the huge firm that has just fired him.

As Maguire morphs into Spider-Man, he falls more deeply in love with his erstwhile classmate (played by Kirsten Dunst). After graduation, she has a hard time achieving her dream of becoming an actress in a big city.

### Girlfriend

To console herself, she becomes the girlfriend of Maguire's best friend. Her feelings for Maguire are purely platonic at this stage, but she falls head over heels for Spider-Man himself, after he saves her life during one of his arch-nemesis' terrorist attacks.

In the end, of course, Spider-Man crushes his arch-nemesis, but the romantic denouement is left hanging, so we fully expect to see a sequel in a couple of years, specially since this first Spider-Man movie saga is reported to be breaking box-office records everywhere.

### Appeal

What's the film's appeal? Its combination of warm, vulnerable, human moments and visually energetic, vivid and imaginative fantasy-action sequences. This mix of comic book and soap opera elements is even more pronounced here than in the Superman movies, with the added plus factor of having a very young hero, thus making the film attractive to the huge youth audience.

Fact is, Maguire's character is too young for the actor, who isn't believable as a high school senior, despite his otherwise engaging and even affecting performance. Kirsten Dunst looks even older than Maguire, so their high school scenes really strain viewers' ability to suspend their disbelief.

### Arch-nemesis

Another problem is the arch-nemesis, who doesn't really give Spider-Man—and the film's viewers—much to worry about. Director Sam Raimi makes up for the depressed evil factor with some really striking visualizations and action sequences. Despite these surges of energy, however, the movie loses momentum towards the end, where it's needed most.

And yet, viewers leave the theater feeling good about the film. We attribute this to its young hero, who is presented as a combination of vulnerability and super-strength. This isn't easy to pull off, but Maguire is one of the best actors working in Hollywood, so he makes the tricky feat look easy as pie.

### Bankable star

We wonder why Maguire, who's done pretty serious films in the past, agreed to star in this fluffy fantasy-action production. His motivation could be similar to Keanu Reeves' when he did "Speed," the zippy, sappy actioner that made him a big, bankable star.

Now that "Spider-Man" is a certified super-blockbuster, Tobey Maguire is the new, young "king of the (film) world" (move over, Leonardo DiCaprio. There's some mighty heady satisfaction to be found in that, too!

---

# Motherhood . . .

From page G1

*'pag may kailangan s'ya sa kanya,"* she remarks about Grace's changed behavior.

She also warns her kids against drug abuse. "*Sabi ko nga kay* Onyok, *mambabae siya, 'wag lang siya magda*-drugs," she stresses.

Most of the time, though, Osang is a picture of a loving *madre de familia* in-charge of the household's daily meals. "*'Di kasi sila kumakain ng luto ng iba,*" she explains, adding that she cooks the usual Filipino fare. "*Pero kapag* Sunday, *kailangan may sabaw, tulad ng nilaga.*"

### Decisions

Likewise a whiz in the kitchen, **Janice de Belen** ponders beyond the tasty goodies that she prepares for her kids. "When you make decisions," she muses, "it's not always for yourself anymore, *lalo na* in my case now (she's separated from husband John Estrada). Whenever I make a decision, *may kakabit na limang tao* (her kids Luigi, 15, Inah, 10, Moira, 9, Kaila, 6, and Yuan, 3).

But she doesn't believe that she has to make sacrifices for them. "You only say 'sacrifices' *kapag mabigat gawin,*" she explains. "I've made a choice and everything else, I do instinctively."

When Janice chose to keep Luigi when she was 18, she didn't feel that she was sacrificing her flourishing career then. Ditto when she opted to focus on her family, after marrying John and having their four kids in quick succession.

"Responsibilities have never been a problem to me," she maintains. "*Maaga naman akong nagtrabaho* (at age nine on "Flor de Luna"), so responsibilities never became a threat to me. *Mataas rin ang* acceptance level *ko. Ganoon ang nangyari, el Wala akong* depression. *Pero marami ring mga beses na nagpapatulong ako sa* mommy *ko.*"

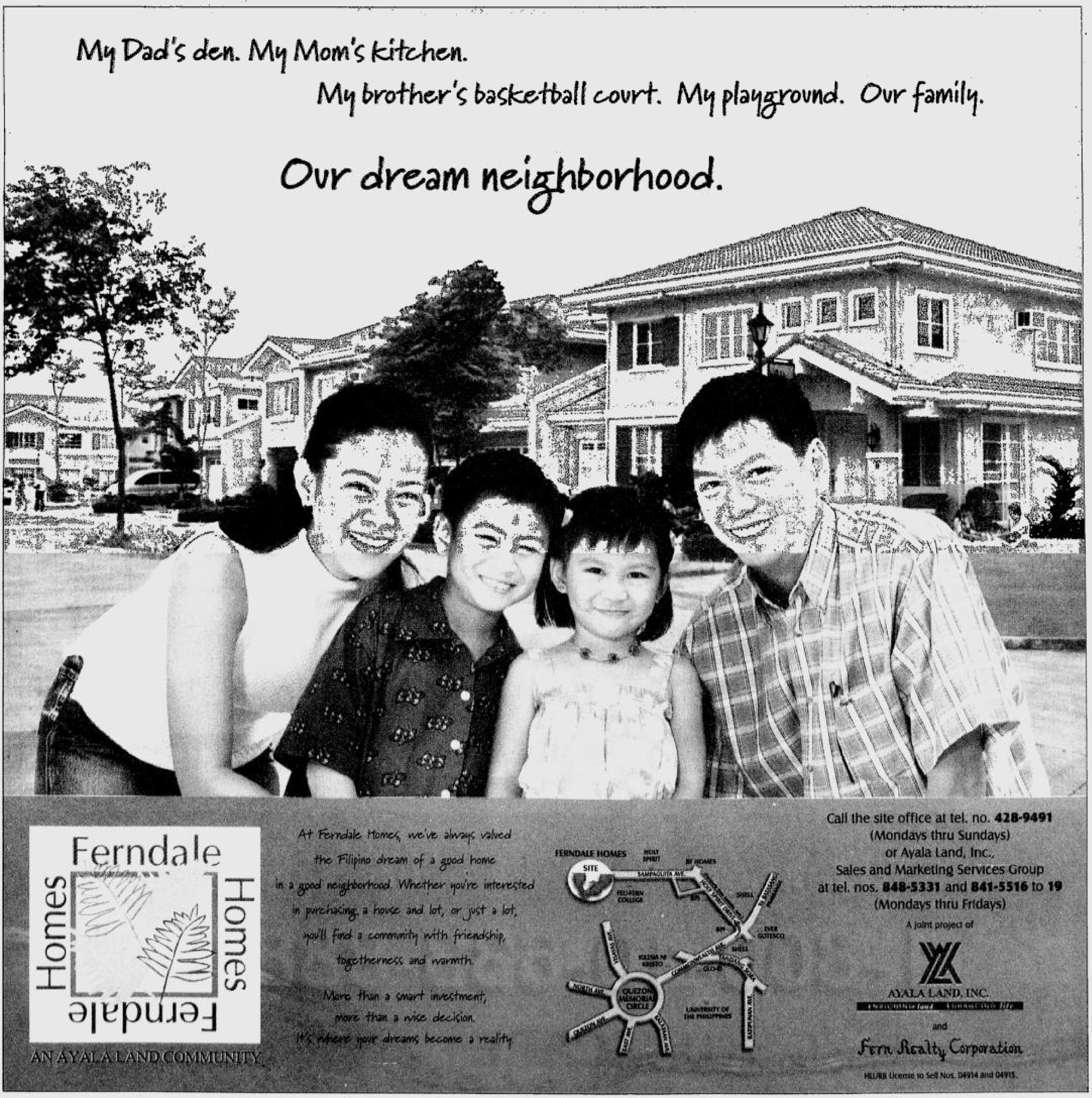
DE BELEN. "Now I appreciate my mother more."

### Guilty

Now that she has to work harder, she sometimes feels guilty whenever she leaves the house to work or to unwind. She also admits to not being a totally hands-on mom to her children anymore since she has begun her hosting career (the late-morning talk show, "Sis," and the Sunday-afternoon show biz program, "S-Files," both on Channel 7).

"But I know what happens to them," she says. "*Alam ko 'pag nag-aaway, 'pag may nagsusungit.*" Needless to say, Janice knows her kids very well. She can point out the traits that they have inherited from her, reminding her of her own childhood. "*Nakakatuwa din kasi mga anak ko talaga sila!*" she laughs, citing Yuan as an example: "*'Pag ayaw niya, ayaw niya. Pareho kami.*"

How has motherhood changed Janice? "Now, I appreciate my mother more," she replies. "*Kapag bata ka pa kasi, lahat ng sinasabi ng nanay mo parang* 'Oh, my God, *ano 'to?* Sermon-sermon. OA!' But later, you realize that what she's been telling you is true." ***(To be concluded)***



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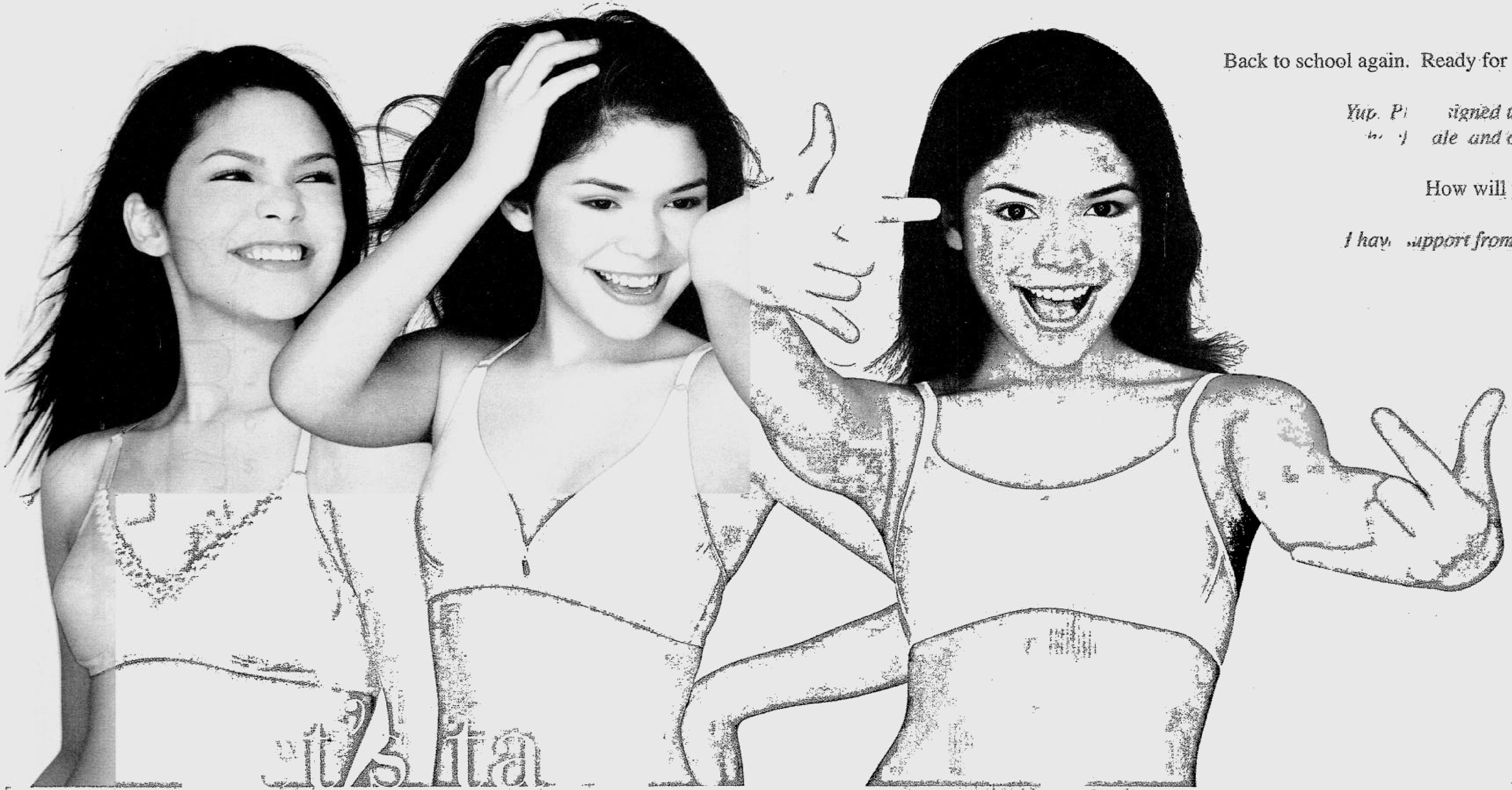

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"SPIDER-MAN." Fastest film to break the $100 M barrier.

# 'Spider-Man' bodes well for superhero productions

By Steve Gorman

**LOS ANGELES—POW! The record-smashing success of "Spider-Man" has once again shown the box-office clout of superheroes as studios prepare to roll out a mighty line of men in tights—from big-screen newcomers Hulk and Daredevil to returning veterans Batman and Superman.**

### Amazing

"Spider-Man," the Columbia Pictures film based on the life and times of the Marvel Comics webslinger, grossed an amazing $114 million in its first three days in theaters, Friday through Sunday.

That makes it the biggest three-day film debut of all time, shattering the $90.3 million record set last November by "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," and the fastest film to break the $100 million barrier. No other movie has yet cracked the seven-figure mark in its first weekend.

The film's super-sized opening gave a powerful jolt to the unofficial start of a summer season that may be filled with blockbusters, including "Star Wars: Episode II—Attack of the Clones," which opens in two weeks.

"This portends a record-breaking summer season," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box office tracking service Exhibitor Relations. "There's a new reality for what is possible in terms of box office."

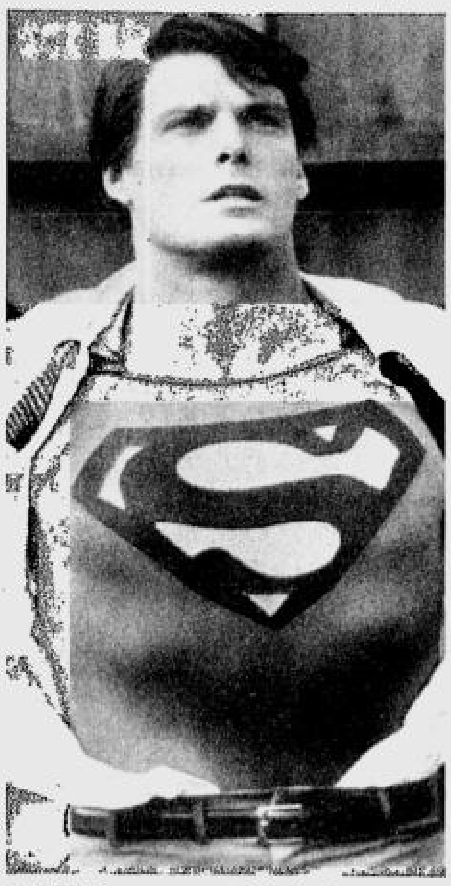
### Seven-figure advance

Flush from the film's stunning success, Marvel Enterprises formally announced on Monday that Columbia has paid a seven-figure advance for a "Spider-Man" sequel slated for release in 2004. A third film is planned for two years later.

"Spidey" star Tobey Maguire is on board for both sequels, reprising his role as a high school nerd who gets spider-like powers and super-human strength from the bite of a genetically altered arachnid.

For Maguire, the instant superstar status he gained from "Spider-Man" is as dramatic as the transformation undergone by his character. Columbia initially balked at director Sam

'SPIDER-MAN'/ p.H2



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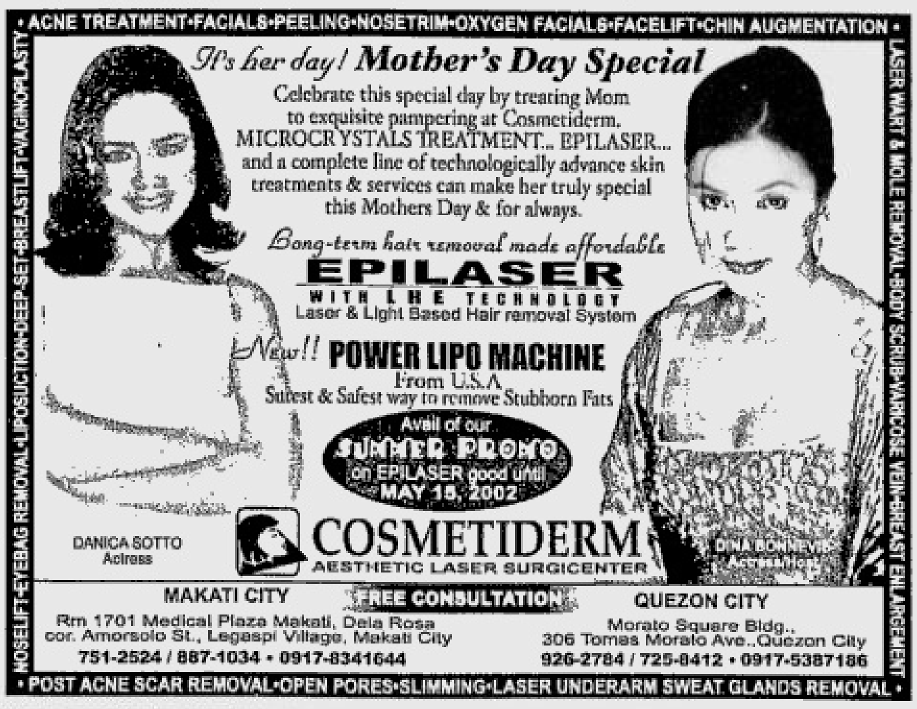

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# ‘Spider-Man’ bodes well for superhero productions

**"X-MEN."** A sequel, "X2," is due in May 2003.

From page H1

Raimi's insistence that the diminutive, doe-eyed actor with the creaky voice be cast in the role of his superhero.

"Spider-Man" is only the latest in a new wave of superheroes leaping off the pages of comic books and into theaters as studios increasingly look to build big-event movie "franchises" with sure-fire box-office potential.

Four such Marvel-based films are due out next year alone, starting with "Daredevil" in January from 20th Century Fox. An "X-Men" sequel, "X2," from Fox comes next, in May 2003, followed by "The Hulk" in June 2003 from Universal Pictures and "Punisher," about an ex-cop vigilante, two months later from Artisan Entertainment.

### Underwater hero

Marvel also has its underwater hero "Sub-Mariner" under development at Universal, "The Fantastic Four" at Fox, the mystical "Dr. Strange" at Dimension Films and "Ghost Rider" at Columbia, a unit of Sony Corp.

All of these projects gained a new measure of momentum from the performance of "Spider-Man." "An opening like that obviously builds the confidence of studios that wish to have more franchise movies," said Avi Arad, president of Marvel Studios.

Warner Bros., which owns rival D.C. Comics, also has a flurry of films in the works from its own staple of superheroes—two Batman movies, a new Superman movie, a team-up between Superman and Batman, a Wonder Woman film and a film based on the Batman villain, Catwoman.

Superheroes have a distinguished track record as commercial powerhouses in Hollywood. The first "Superman" starring Christopher Reeve grossed more than $134 million during its 1978 run, making it a huge hit for its time.

Warner's original "Batman" film in 1989 made $40.5 million in its first weekend in 1989, a big number even by today's standards, and went on to rake in more than $251 million domestically. More recently, "X-Men" opened with $54.5 million in 2000 on its way to a $157.3 million tally.

### Big-name talent

Many of the latest projects come with big-name talent. Acclaimed filmmaker Ang Lee ("Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon") is directing "The Hulk," with Eric Bana in the title role of the giant green brute and Oscar winner Jennifer Connelly co-starring.

Another Oscar-winning actress, Halle Berry, will reprise her role as the superhero known as Storm for "X2," co-starring Patrick Stewart from "Star Trek: The Next Generation" fame. And Ben Affleck will star in "Daredevil" as the blind but acrobatic crime fighter whose other super-developed senses more than make up for his lost vision.

Affleck, who trained for weeks to perform some of his own stunts, joked that "Spider-Man" will be a hard act to follow, telling Reuters, "There's no money left. Spider-Man has all the money." The bar has, indeed, been set rather high.

The $43.6 million raked in by "Spidey" on Saturday also sets a new single-day box-office benchmark, eclipsing the previous one-day record of $33.5 million set by "Harry Potter" in its second day of release.

For Columbia, "Spider-Man" more than doubles the studio's previous best opening—the $51.1 million grossed by "Men in Black" in 1997 in its first three days. A sequel to "MiB," itself based on an obscure comic book, opens in two months.

### Fewer screens

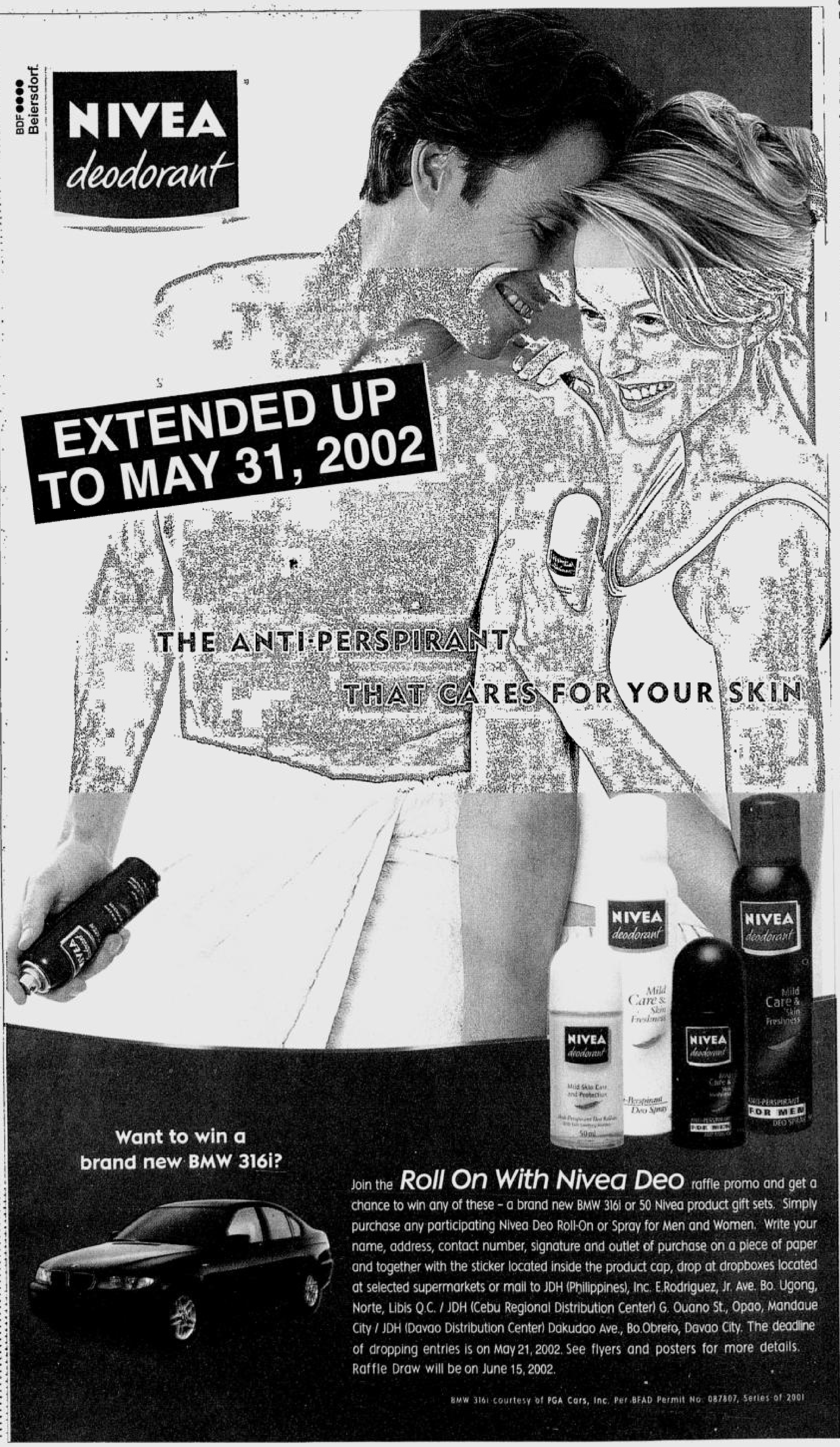
While playing on fewer screens than "Harry Potter," an estimated 7,500 compared with 8,100 for the boy wizard, "Spider-Man" benefited from a shorter running time, which allowed exhibitors to squeeze in more showings per day.

The film also cashed in on a huge marketing campaign, a built-in fan base of comic book devotees, its mix of action and romance and the fact that its main protagonists were teenagers, providing special appeal to the biggest and most ardent segment of the moviegoing public.

Columbia is a unit of Sony Corp., Warner Bros. is owned by AOL Time Warner Inc., Fox is a unit of Fox Entertainment Group Inc., which is owned by News Corp., and Universal is a unit of Vivendi Universal SA. *Reuters*

**THE ORIGINAL** "Batman" film grossed $40.5M on its first weekend.

**"MEN in Black"** sequel is coming in two months.



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# Paolo Contis likes making people laugh

CONTIS. Can get by on only three hours of sleep.

**By Jocelyn Valle**

SINCE Paolo Contis joined the old kiddie gag-musical show, "Ang TV," when he was only four years old, the Filipino-Italian actor has been associated with comedy. When he was still in a regular school (he shifted to ABS-CBN's Distance Learning Center four years ago), the bullies wouldn't fight with him. "*Komedyante kasi ang tingin nila sa akin*," he recalls. "*Gusto nila, magpatawa ako.*"

### Natural comedian

Paolo's Italian father, he informs us, is a natural comedian. He feels he got his talent from his dad, who runs his own travel agency. His mother, on the other hand, used to be a college teacher.

He began to appreciate the craft when he became part of Aga Muhlach's sitcom, "Oki Doki Doc," as the youngest cast member at age eight. He learned a lot, especially from the late Babalu, who played his dad and Doc Aga's landlord.

He's become more comfortable in comedy ever since. "*Doon ako natuto ng lahat*," he offers. "*Gusto ko 'yung patawa ni* Tito Babalu, spontaneous. *At saka matulungin siya sa mga katrabaho.*"

### Gag show

Now, he stars in the gag show, "Klasmeyts," along with Herbert Bautista, Bayani Agbayani, Keempee de Leon and Michael Flores. "It's OK working with them," he grins. "I may be the youngest in the cast *pero sila ang nag*-adjust *sa akin*. For the last three years *kasi, puro* "Tabing-ilog" costars *ang kasama ko. Hindi ubra ang kulit ko sa kanila.* Nine o'clock *pa lang kasi, tulog na sila!*"

Paolo likes the way Jerry Seinfeld and Matthew Perry make people laugh, making him wish that the humor on "Klasmeyts" would develop into something like "Seinfeld's" or "Friends." On his own, he's tried doing stand-up comedy, but only for friends.

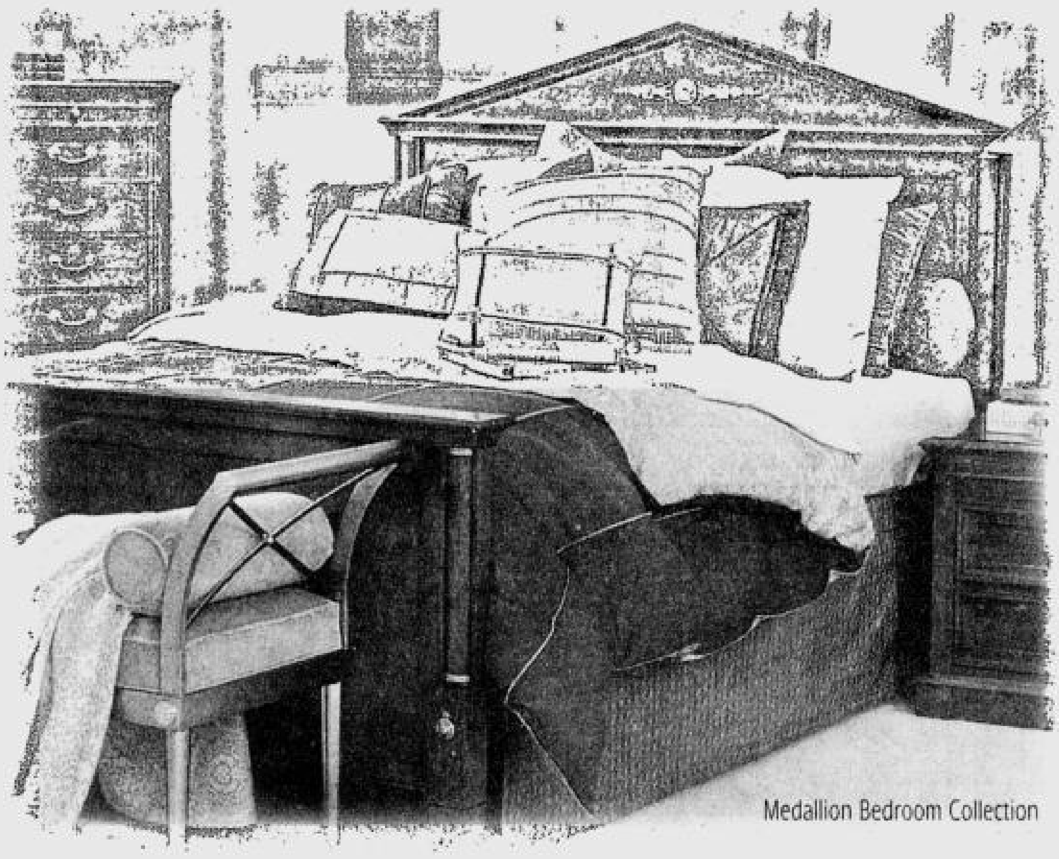
At the same time, he's welcoming the challenges that drama offers. He's a regular in the teen drama series "Tabing-ilog," also on Channel 2, as the angst-ridden Badong. His last movie, Star Cinema's "Trip," likewise dramatized the youth's adventures and misadventures.

### Director

Paolo would like to become a director in the future. In fact, he plans to study filmmaking four years from now—in China. "Because I admire John Woo's directorial style," he explains his surprising choice of country, since most wannabe directors prefer more popular places like the US, France, Italy and India.

After completing his secondary schooling, Paolo is taking a break. It was no joke juggling studies with three regular TV shows (he used to appear on "Pangako sa 'Yo") and the movies. Then, he intends to take up a two-year course at the Center for Culinary Arts. Eventually, he hopes to open a restaurant, with himself as the chef.

"I love cooking for other people, not for myself," he shares. "I don't really eat a lot, but I'm very energetic. I don't sleep during tapings. When I'm home, I usually go to bed at 3 a.m. OK *na sa akin ang* three hours *na tulog*. To relax, I watch TV, read, or shoot the breeze with friends."



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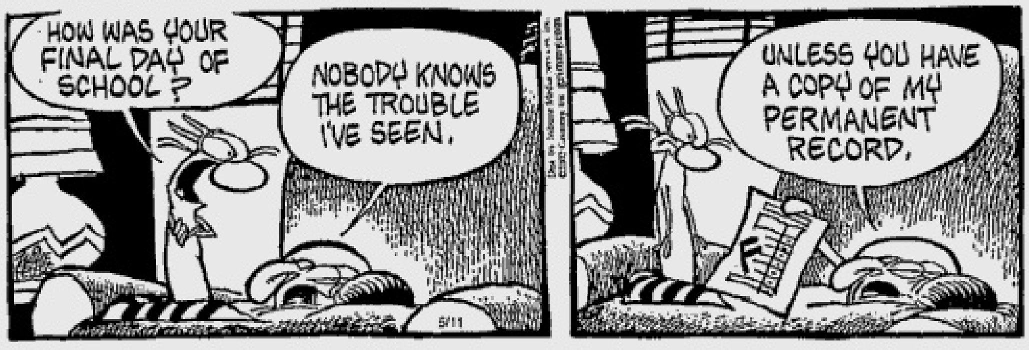
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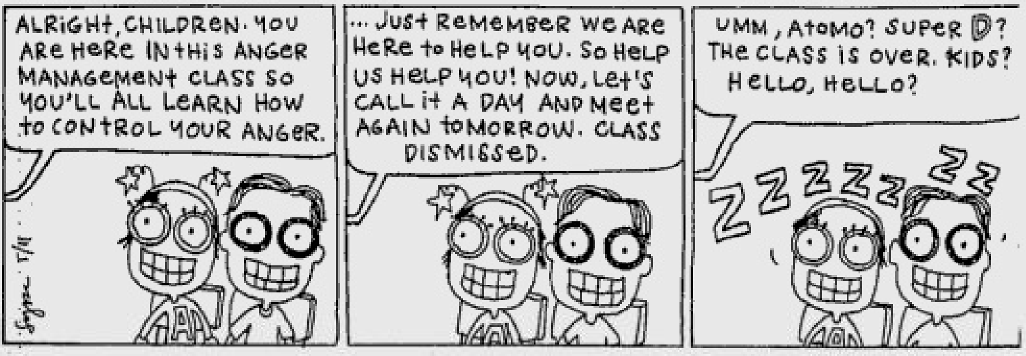
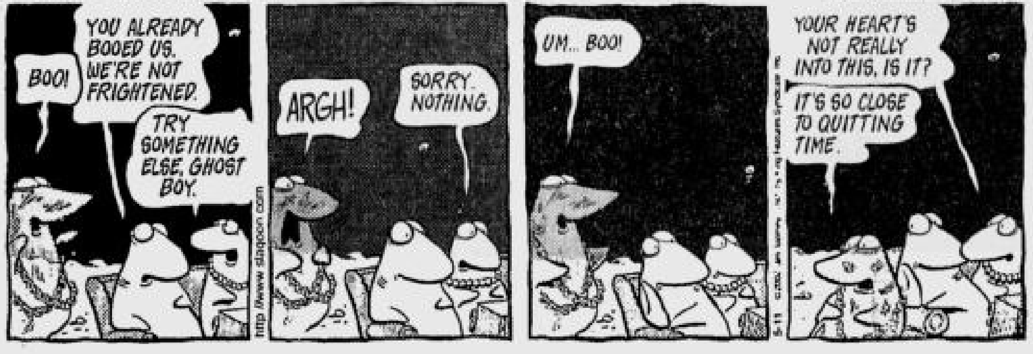

ALRIGHT, CHILDREN. YOU ARE HERE IN THIS ANGER MANAGEMENT CLASS SO YOU'LL ALL LEARN HOW TO CONTROL YOUR ANGER.
... JUST REMEMBER WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU. SO HELP US HELP YOU! NOW, LET'S CALL IT A DAY AND MEET AGAIN TOMORROW. CLASS DISMISSED.
UMM, ATOMO? SUPER D? THE CLASS IS OVER. KIDS? HELLO, HELLO?
ZZZZZZZ

**SHERMAN'S LAGOON** BY JIM TOOMEY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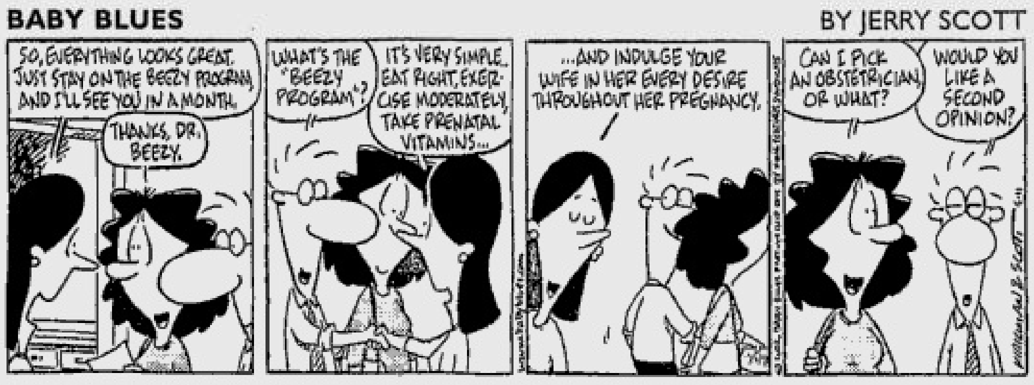
**BABY BLUES** BY JERRY SCOTT


SO, EVERYTHING LOOKS GREAT. JUST STAY ON THE BEEZY PROGRAM AND I'LL SEE YOU IN A MONTH.
THANKS, DR. BEEZY.
WHAT'S THE "BEEZY PROGRAM"?
IT'S VERY SIMPLE. EAT RIGHT, EXERCISE MODERATELY, TAKE PRENATAL VITAMINS...
...AND INDULGE YOUR WIFE IN HER EVERY DESIRE THROUGHOUT HER PREGNANCY.
CAN I PICK AN OBSTETRICIAN, OR WHAT?
WOULD YOU LIKE A SECOND OPINION?

# HOROSCOPE

## BY EUGENIA LAST

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Salvador Dali, Irving Berlin, Randy Quaid, Natasha Richardson

**Happy Birthday:** Sudden changes of residence or changes in your home and personal life are likely to occur this year. You will be interested in travel, learning and the cultural arts of others. Your ability to reason in relationships will give you the edge when it comes to helping others. Your numbers are 6, 15, 22, 31, 38, 44

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Take a pleasure trip or visit someone special today. You will be in the mood to try something new. You will become emotional, however, if things don't go your way. Try not to push your opinions on others.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Keep your private thoughts to yourself today. If you try to buy or impress others you are likely to face disappointment. Put your time into doing your job well.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Your energetic nature will help you stay ahead of anyone who thinks he may be a match for you. If someone causes you problems, get all the facts before taking action.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** You mustn't let anyone get the better of you today. You will tend to overreact to emotional situations and therefore must not be too quick to retaliate. Partnership troubles can be expected.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** You'll be ready for any challenge that comes your way. Sports activity will be exhilarating. You will meet new lovers through groups that you join. Travel will be conducive to romance and adventure.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Confusion regarding your responsibilities will cause upset if you feel that you are being leaned on too much. Put your greatest efforts into your personal investments today.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** You may want to reevaluate your personal relationships. Someone may be taking advantage of you. If you've been giving in too much it may be time to think about what you want to do with your life.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** You should be thinking about getting into business for yourself or expanding on the business you already have going. Opportunities to make money will develop through real estate or dealing with other people's money or possessions.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** You'll be the adventurer today. You'll be quick to try new things and eager to try your luck when it comes to a gamble. Social activity will lead to some interesting conversations.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Someone you live with may be upset today. Volunteer work will bring you in contact with some terrific people. Do a little networking if possible.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Your energetic nature should put you in a leadership position. Don't hesitate to make social sugges-tions that everyone can enjoy. The more people you're with today the more fun you'll have.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** You may want to think back to your early childhood or talk to someone who can jog your memory about days gone by. Changes at home will be to your advantage. Children may play a role in your plans.

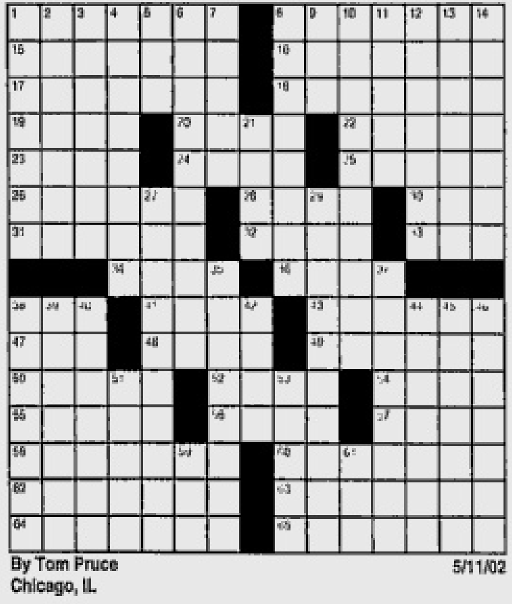
**Birthday Baby:** Your philosophical views will change throughout life. You will be inspired by the knowledge you acquire while traveling or pursuing educational endeavors. You will have a broad outlook and an interest in foreign cultures.

# DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com

**ACROSS**
1 Perp's pic
8 Greek letters
15 Tombstone inscription
16 Destroy
17 Heavy stepper
18 One of the Redgraves
19 Puerto __
20 Weather research agcy.
22 Bop pianist Art
23 Actor Novello
24 Eastern European
25 __ und Drang
26 Arab
28 Carry
30 Female sandpiper
31 Fidelities
32 Very German?
33 Yow, it's cold!
34 Fervor
36 British knights
38 Mil. training course
41 Not orig.
43 Gung-ho
47 Dundee negative
48 Verne's skipper
49 Flashing light
50 Author of "Studies in the Psychology of Sex"
52 Spoiled tot
54 Greek mount
55 Conductor Georg
56 Petty of "A League of Their Own"
57 Computer owner
58 Foot-operated lever
60 Introductions
62 Like a vacuum
63 Intrinsic quality
64 Vacation destinations
65 Hits the books

**DOWN**
1 Type of poet
2 Against the current
3 Composer Puccini
4 Swiss city on the Inn River
5 General Arnold's nickname
6 Ali Baba's magic words
7 Severe pang
8 Washbowls attached to walls
9 Lawyers' org.
10 Island northwest of Guadaloupe
11 Sheep call
12 Do not __
13 Confidence builder
14 Impostor
21 Part of B.A.
27 1999 Al Pacino movie
29 Superlatively parched
35 Lacking appendages
37 Enveloped
38 First level general
39 Thermal unit
40 Marketers
42 Spanish bull
44 "The Thieving Magpie" composer
45 Lack
46 Funeral vehicles
51 Italian novelist Calvino
53 City in Provence
59 WWII troop transport
61 Sun Devils sch.



By Tom Pruce
Chicago, IL

5/11/02

**Friday's Puzzle Solved**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | P | I | N | ■ | I | T | C | H | ■ | W | H | A | C | K |
| H | A | V | E | ■ | M | I | L | E | ■ | H | A | N | O | I |
| A | S | I | A | ■ | P | E | A | R | ■ | A | S | T | I | R |
| W | H | E | T | H | E | R | Y | O | U | T | H | I | N | K |
| L | A | S | H | E | D | ■ | S | I | G | N | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | R | I | P | ■ | C | H | O | R | I | N | E |
| Y | O | U | C | A | N | O | R | ■ | ■ | T | O | N | E | S |
| O | N | T | O | ■ | G | L | A | S | S | ■ | O | K | R | A |
| G | E | E | N | A | ■ | ■ | T | H | I | N | K | Y | O | U |
| A | S | S | E | R | T | S | ■ | E | S | E | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | G | A | M | Y | ■ | T | A | R | A | W | A |
| C | A | N | T | Y | O | U | A | R | E | R | I | G | H | T |
| O | R | I | E | L | ■ | T | H | O | R | ■ | P | O | E | S |
| M | A | N | S | E | ■ | C | O | I | L | ■ | E | R | T | E |
| A | B | E | T | S | ■ | H | O | L | Y | ■ | N | A | S | A |

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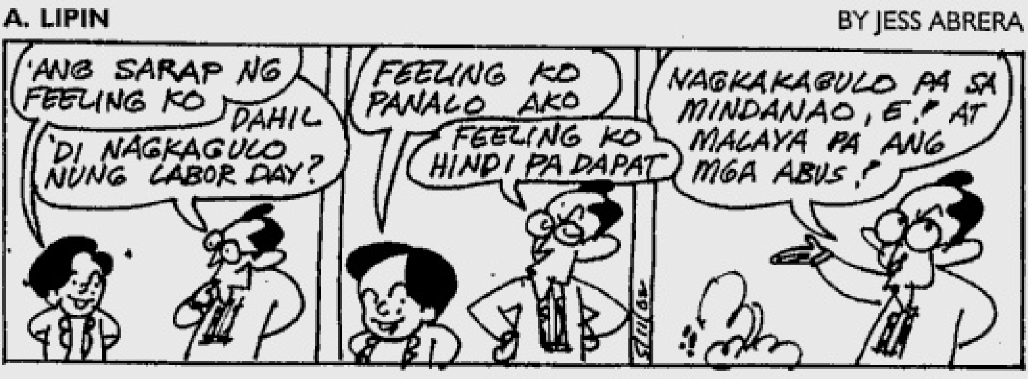
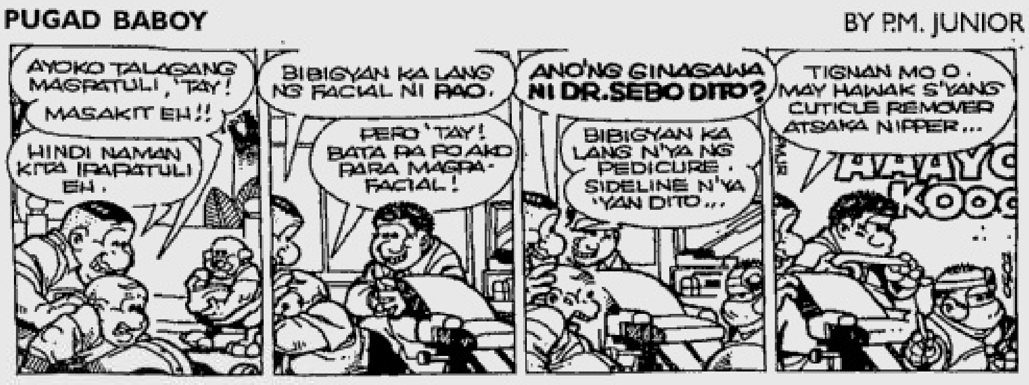
5/11/02

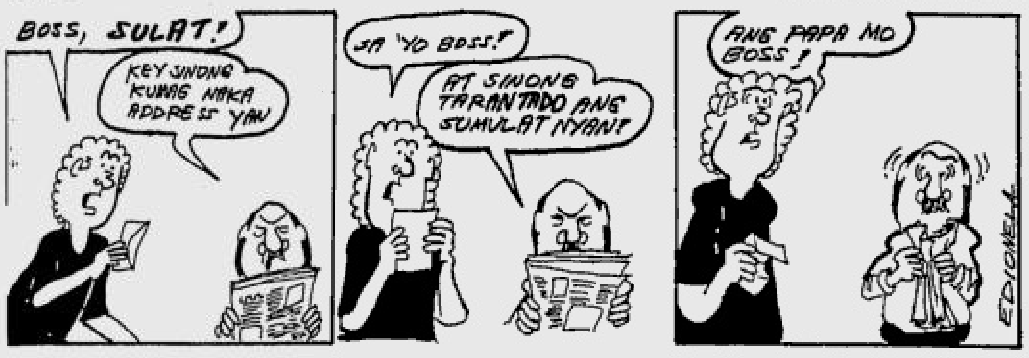
**A. LIPIN** BY JESS ABRERA


'ANG SARAP NG FEELING KO DAHIL 'DI NAGKAGULO NUNG LABOR DAY?
FEELING KO PANALO AKO
FEELING KO HINDI PA DAPAT
NAGKAKAGULO PA SA MINDANAO, E.! AT MALAYA PA ANG MGA ABUS!

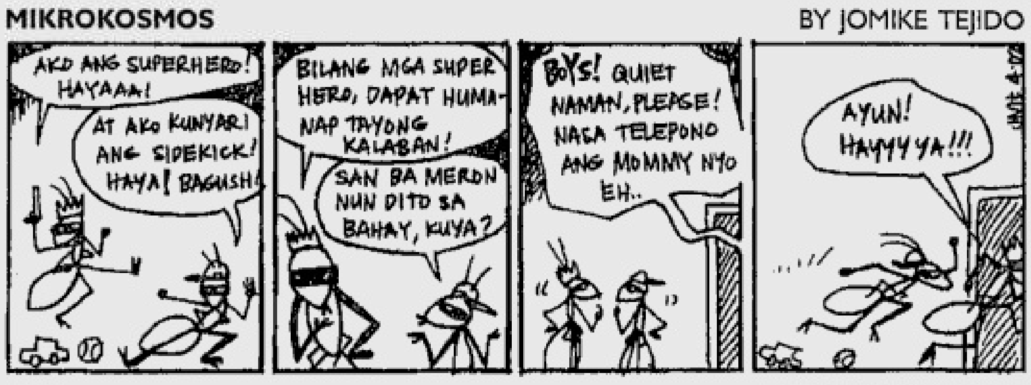
**PUGAD BABOY** BY P.M. JUNIOR


AYOKO TALAGANG MAGPATULI, 'TAY! MASAKIT EH!!
HINDI NAMAN KITA IPAPATULI EH.
BIBIGYAN KA LANG NG FACIAL NI PAO.
PERO 'TAY! BATA PA PO AKO PARA MAGPA-FACIAL!
ANO'NG GINAGAWA NI DR. SEBO DITO?
BIBIGYAN KA LANG N'YA NG PEDICURE. SIDELINE N'YA 'YAN DITO...
TIGNAN MO O. MAY HAWAK S'YANG CUTICLE REMOVER ATSAKA NIPPER...
AAAYO KOOO

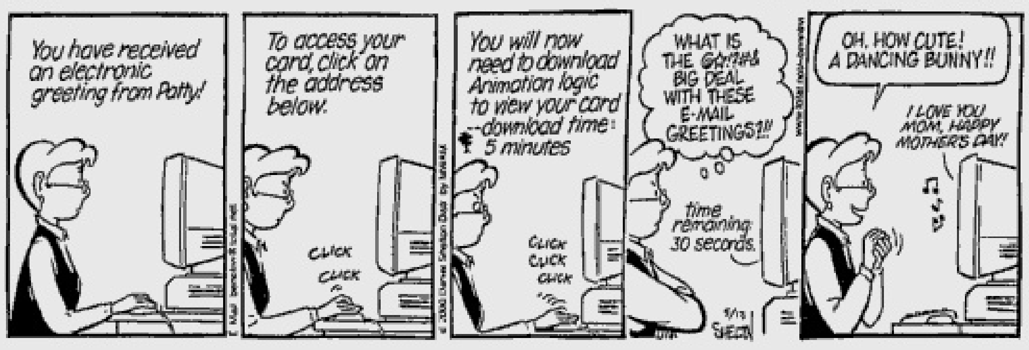
**SIMO** BY EDGAR DIONELA


BOSS, SULAT!
KEY SINONG KUMAG NAKA ADDRESS YAN
SA 'YO BOSS!
AT SINONG TARANTADO ANG SUMULAT NYAN!
ANG PAPA MO BOSS!
EDIONELA

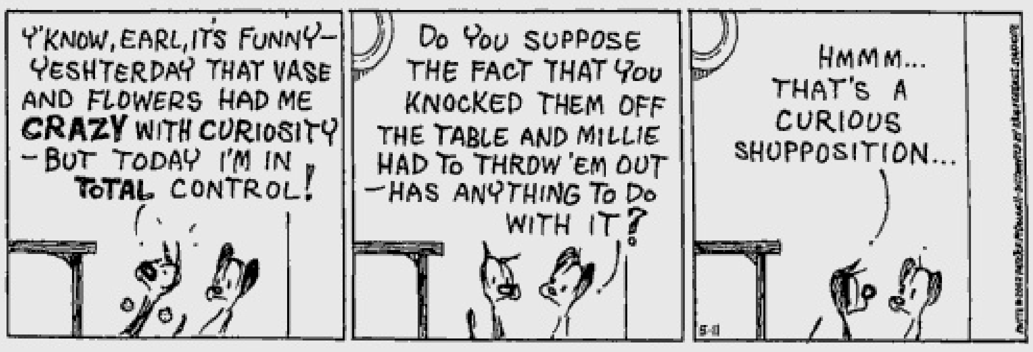
**MIKROKOSMOS** BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


AKO ANG SUPERHERO! HAYAAA!
AT AKO KUNYARI ANG SIDEKICK! HAYA! BAGUSH!
BILANG MGA SUPER HERO, DAPAT HUMANAP TAYONG KALABAN!
SAN BA MERON NUN DITO SA BAHAY, KUYA?
BOYS! QUIET NAMAN, PLEASE! NASA TELEPONO ANG MOMMY NYO EH..
AYUN! HAYYYYA!!!

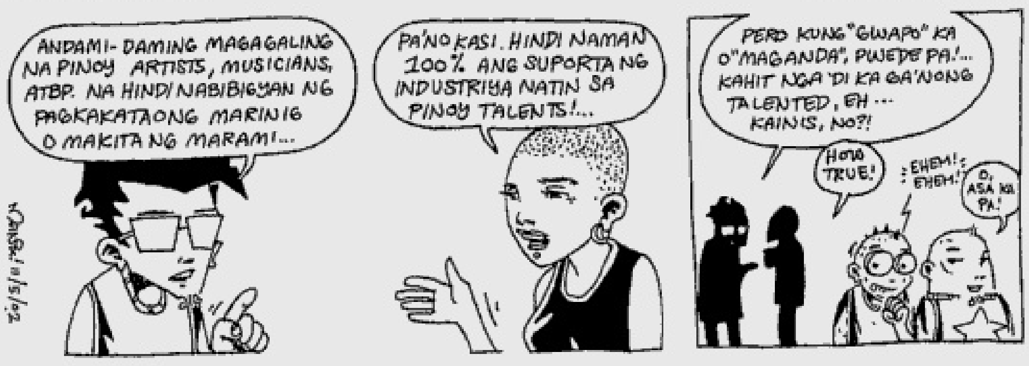
**BEN** BY DANIEL SHELTON


You have received an electronic greeting from Patty!
To access your card, click on the address below.
CLICK CLICK
You will now need to download Animation logic to view your card --download time: 5 minutes
CLICK CLICK CLICK
WHAT IS THE BIG DEAL WITH THESE E-MAIL GREETINGS?!!
time remaining: 30 seconds.
OH, HOW CUTE! A DANCING BUNNY!!
I LOVE YOU MOM, HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!
5/13 SHELTON

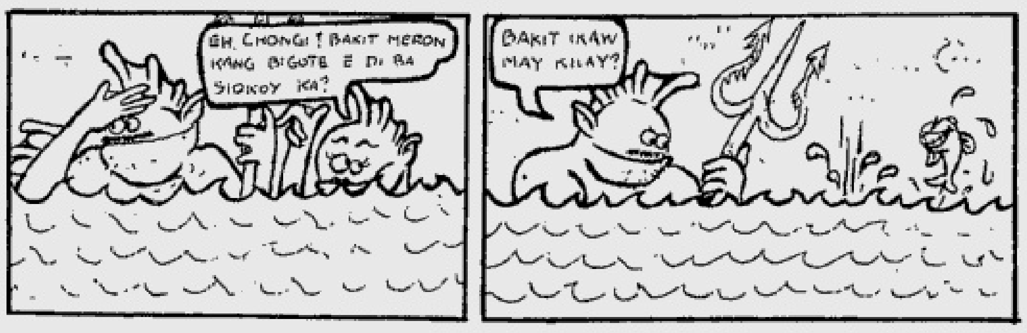
**MUTTS** BY PATRICK McDONNELL


Y'KNOW, EARL, IT'S FUNNY— YESHTERDAY THAT VASE AND FLOWERS HAD ME CRAZY WITH CURIOSITY —BUT TODAY I'M IN TOTAL CONTROL!
DO YOU SUPPOSE THE FACT THAT YOU KNOCKED THEM OFF THE TABLE AND MILLIE HAD TO THROW 'EM OUT —HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT?
HMMM... THAT'S A CURIOUS SHUPPOSITION...
5-11

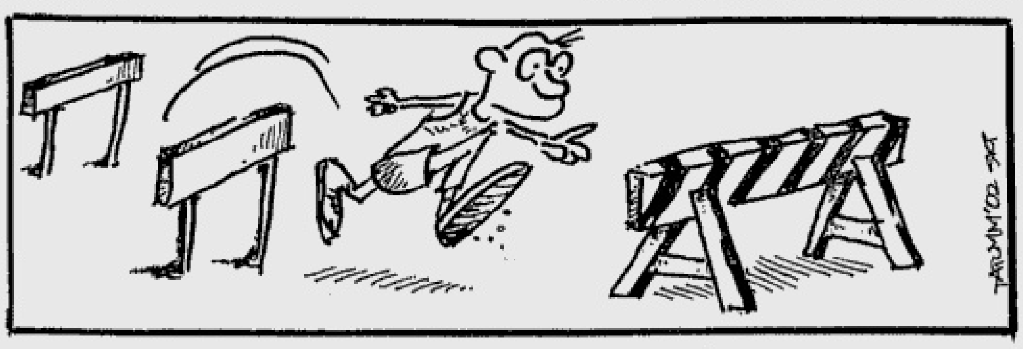
**KIKO MACHINE** BY MANIX ABRERA


ANDAMI-DAMING MAGAGALING NA PINOY ARTISTS, MUSICIANS, ATBP. NA HINDI NABIBIGYAN NG PAGKAKATAONG MARINIG O MAKITA NG MARAMI...
PA'NO KASI. HINDI NAMAN 100% ANG SUPORTA NG INDUSTRIYA NATIN SA PINOY TALENTS!...
PERO KUNG "GWAPO" KA O "MAGANDA", PWEDE PA!... KAHIT NGA 'DI KA GA'NONG TALENTED, EH ... KAINIS, NO?!
HOW TRUE!
EHEM! EHEM!
O, ASA KA PA!

**CHICHOY CHOKOY** BY IKOY RICIO


EH, CHONG! BAKIT MERON KANG BIGOTE E DI BA SIOKOY KA?
BAKIT IKAW MAY KILAY?

**TULDOK** BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

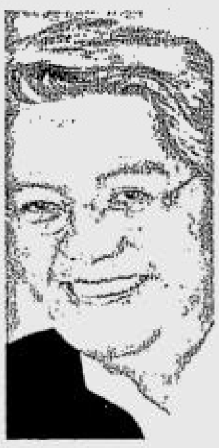


# Ryan Cayabyab dreams on

By Mary Ann A. Bautista

SITTING awestruck across the "Music Man" himself, Ryan Cayabyab, I marveled that he has done so much in only 31 years. Ryan gives a bellowing laugh that immediately dispels my nervousness.

Just like his music, Ryan has an effortless way of putting people at ease. This worked very well on the set of the defunct late-night musical show, "Ryan, Ryan Musikahan."



CAYABYAB. Wants to direct a film.

### Five years

Ryan smiles at the memory: "'Musikahan' didn't sell. It didn't make money, though it ran for five years. ABS-CBN offered me just one season and every six months, *tinatanong ko sila: O, ano, tatanggalin na ba? Puwede nyo nang tanggalin, masaya na ako* with just one season, *kasi* may concept *yung* show."

He grins as he recalls the good times. "The concept of 'Musikahan' was just to have fun, like friends stopping by to chat and sing a song or two. Live singing all throughout, *kaya lahat ng* guest *ko lumalapit sa akin sa insayo namin at bumubulong na dahan-dahan lang kasi sinisipon sila*. We sometimes had to tape three to four episodes in one day so *kung ano yung nagawa, iyon na talaga iyon!*

### Bloopers

"*Naka-ipon nga kami ng* bloopers. One time *kumakanta si* Kuh Ledesma, *tapos may langaw, kaya na*-distract *siya at nagmura*. Then there was a time when Cecille Licad was a guest and all of us involved in the show were on pins and needles because we were afraid that someone might walk out—*kasi baka mapangitan si* Cecille *sa* piano *na gagamitin niya*."

"Singers on the show were all spontaneous, they were themselves. *Maraming nagbibigay ng* feelers *na gusto nilang mag*-guest *sa* show *para daw ipakitang marunong silang kumanta*. But we really wanted to get celebrities who could sing!

"When I finally got out of 'Musikahan,' I felt bad *kasi para kang na*-fire, but I also wanted to take a break. 'Musikahan' was one of the best things that happened in my life, it made me a household name."

### Hearty laugh

Mr. C says he doesn't mind working with the other top three Cs of the pop composing world—Jose Mari Chan, Willy Cruz and George Canseco. He gives a hearty laugh as he downplays his achievements and claims that he is not as talented as the other three Cs.

But Ryan is a musical genius, churning out songs like "Kay Ganda ng Ating Musika," "Paraisong Parisukat," "Paraiso," and "Kailan" and winning awards for his musical scoring of films.

He is excited about his upcoming "Amazing Nights at the Tent" show with Ogie Alcasid and Carol Banawa. They will render pop, jazz, OPM and R&B numbers.

"I wanted to have theater performers in the show who can cross over as pop artists. Ogie is a major talent, a good balladeer who writes good songs. Carol has learned the right vocal placement and she sings well."

After 31 years in the music industry and countless accomplishments tucked under Mr. C's belt, what else is there for him to dream about?

"I still want to do a hit song for Sharon Cuneta. I think it's good for a composer to have a hit. I believe that the song continues to live even if the singer doesn't. And, *gusto kong mag*-direct *ng pelikula!*" he says, with another bellowing laugh.

Hey kids! Come and join the fun!

Maggi Kids' Favorite Spaghetti

Kids' Funtime Favorites

SCHEDULE:

Robinson's Place Imus — May 4 & 5, Saturday & Sunday
Robinson's Place Manila — May 22 & 23, Wednesday & Thursday
Robinson's Galleria — May 30 & 31, Thursday & Friday
Festival Mall Alabang — June 1 & 2, Saturday & Sunday
Robinson's Metro East — June 8 & 9, Saturday & Sunday
Robinson's Place Novaliches — June 15 & 16, Saturday & Sunday

Festival Mall — June 1 & 2, Saturday & Sunday

ROBINSONS Malls
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For every purchase of four (4) packs of MAGGI Kids' Favorite Spaghetti you can enjoy all these FUN activities:

- Kiddie Show
- Play Area
- Coloring Corner
- Photo Corner
- Raffle Draw
- FREE MAGGI KID'S FAVORITE SPAGHETTI !!!

## The Kitchen can be a Safe Playground for Your Kids

The kitchen is not the disaster area you think it is, if you take the right measures to make it safe for your family especially your kids. Allow children to go beyond the fridge and use the kitchen as a fun and safe playground by observing the following kitchen DOs and DON'Ts.

*DON'T* juggle hot food or beverage on one hand and attempt to transport your child with the other.

*DON'T* place hot food and beverage, glassware and knives near the edges of counters and tables.

*DON'T* use placemats and tablecloths which kids will play with, risking food and other kitchen stuff to fall on them.

*DON'T* leave children unattended on high stools, chairs and the like.

*DON'T* allow your children to get their hands on anything sharp, flammable, heavy or breakable. Keep these objects in latched drawers, locked cabinets or up high and out of reach.

*DO* set aside at least one cabinet that is safe (and away from the stove and oven) for your child to open and explore. Store safe but interesting things there, such as light saucepans, wooden spoons, foil pie plates, and empty plastic containers.

*DO* assign a kitchen work area. The kitchen counter and sink are for the kids. The stove and the space near it are for grown-ups and are off limits to children.

*DO* use back burners on the stove when possible. If you must use the front ones, turn pot handles toward the back.

*DO* install a fire extinguisher where the risk of fire danger is greatest, such as in the kitchen or near the fireplace.

Practice safety first then let kids explore the heart of the home--the kitchen. PAPA BANANA CATSUP supports parents on keeping kids safe, well-fed and happy in the kitchen through KUSINA KIDS -- an educational, creative and fun summer activity that will get kids to develop a better appreciation of food and a genuine desire to cook.

Eto ang kanyang playground.

PAPA BANANA CATSUP
Kusina Kids

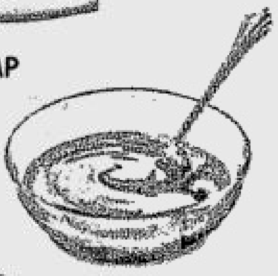
Introducing, kid-friendly recipes with sweet Papa Banana Catsup! Parang laro ang pagluluto! Kaya love ng kids ang recipes kasi may kasamang fun. At dahil Papa, may kasamang Vitamin A pa!

Collect the recipes na! Let your kids be Kusina Kids, busog sa saya, busog sa sustansya!

PIZZA PRESTO!

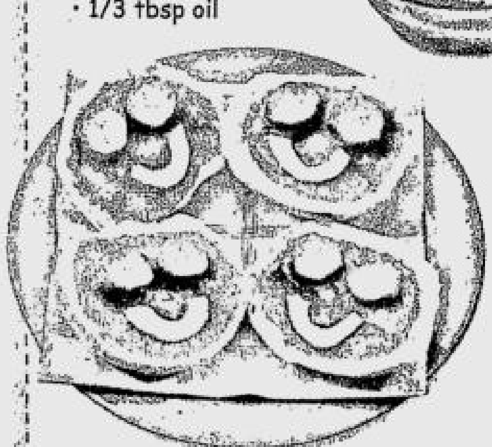
PIZZA SAUCE SARAP IN ONE STEP!

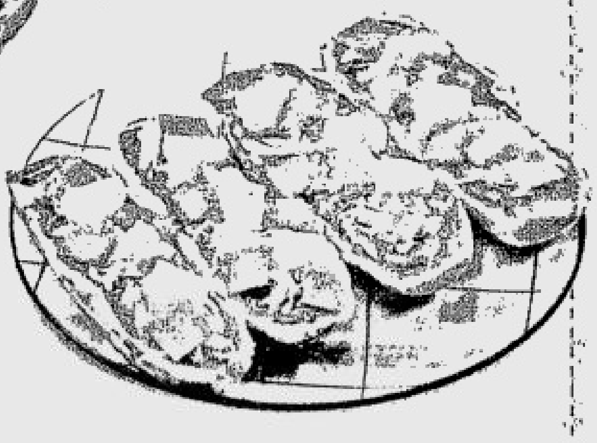
- 1/4 cup (or 4 tbsp) Papa Banana Catsup
- 1 tbsp water
- 1/3 tbsp oil



Mix all of the ingredients and you've got your pizza sauce. Use it for all the pizza recipes featured in Pizza Presto!

Cost: Php 2.25





ALL-SMILES PIZZA

- Papa Catsup Pizza Sauce
- 4 small pan de sal, sliced and separated
- 2 pcs cocktail hotdogs, split into two
- 4 strips cheese

Spread Papa Catsup Pizza Sauce on pan de sal. Put 2 pieces of sliced hotdog to make eyes. Put 1 strip of cheese to form a smile. Bake in oven toaster until cheese melts. Good for 4! Great for party!

Cost per serving: Php 3.00

KUSINA SAFETY TIP
Always keep a potholder ready for you and your kid.

Fortified with VITAMIN A
PAPA
BANANA CATSUP
Good Eyesight.
Builds Resistance for Healthy Body.

ALOHA DOG PIZZA

- Papa Catsup Pizza Sauce
- 2 hotdog buns, sliced and separated
- 4 slices cooked/sweet ham, chopped
- 4 tbsp pineapple tidbits, drained
- 1/4 brick cheese, grated

Spread Papa Catsup Pizza sauce on buns. Sprinkle chopped ham and pineapple tidbits. Top with grated cheese. Bake in oven toaster for about 5-7 mins. or until cheese melts. Makes 4 yummy servings.

Cost per serving: Php 8.50

EYES! EYES! BABY!
Early readers have good eyesight. Malaking tulong ang Papa Banana Catsup! With just 2 tablespoons, Kids get 100% Vitamin A RDA*.
(*For Kids 7-9 years old)

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Instant Sticks
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P119.75

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- Intensive Conditioner
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- Styling Gel
- Leave In Styling Conditioners

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P99.00

Cocktail Air Freshener
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Tape Measure & Embroidery Scissors
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Mini Instrumental Kit & Storage Kit
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Multi-purpose Scissors & Tweezers
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Foot Service Bag
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before ~~1099.75~~
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Enchanting Nail Art Set
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Perfumed Body Talc 350g
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P79.75

Perfumed Liquid Soap 350ml
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P89.75

Spun Polyester Thread
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Color Essentials Make-up Set

YOU FEEL GREAT. WE FEEL GREAT.

YOU LOOK GOOD. WE LOOK GOOD.

YOU HAVE FUN. WE HAVE FUN.

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Mother's Day bukas!

Junior
INQUIRER

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2002 ✦ 12 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 6, NUMBER 31

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WHAT'S INSIDE:

| | |
|---|---|
| ◎ **Uniform Blues** | Page 3 |
| ● **Summer Poems** | Page 6 |
| ◎ **The Lunch Box** | Page 8 |
| ◎ **Super Mommies** | Page 9 |

# Meet Your Reps!

***Their names are Abigail, Ivy and Paul, And they are your voices in the United Nation's Special Session on Children.***

**BY NATASHA VIZCARRA**

THREE Filipino kids. An official trip to the United Nations in New York City. Over 70 heads of State and Government. If you were one of the kids, the thought would probably fill your stomach with butterflies!

But Ivy Michelle Pakingan, Abigail M. Fabrigas and John Paul Claudio—the Philippine's official child representatives to the UN General Assembly's special session on children—are confident that they will do their job well. Oh, and they are also excited, giggly, nervous, anxious and they feel tingly all over when they think about the trip.

"It's also our first trip outside the country," Abigail said in an interview with Junior Inquirer. Ivy and Paul nodded beside her.

The three young leaders were presented to the press on April 29 along with 12 adult representatives of the Philippines to the UN Assembly on May 5 to 10.

As you read this, Abigail, Ivy and Paul would have already met with more than 300 other child delegates from all over the world. They will have already reported on issues that Filipino children face and they would have also met more than 1000 representatives from non-government organizations from all over the world.

"Kids issues are not petty little concerns, " Abigail told JI. "They should be given full power and importance."

### The Lucky 3

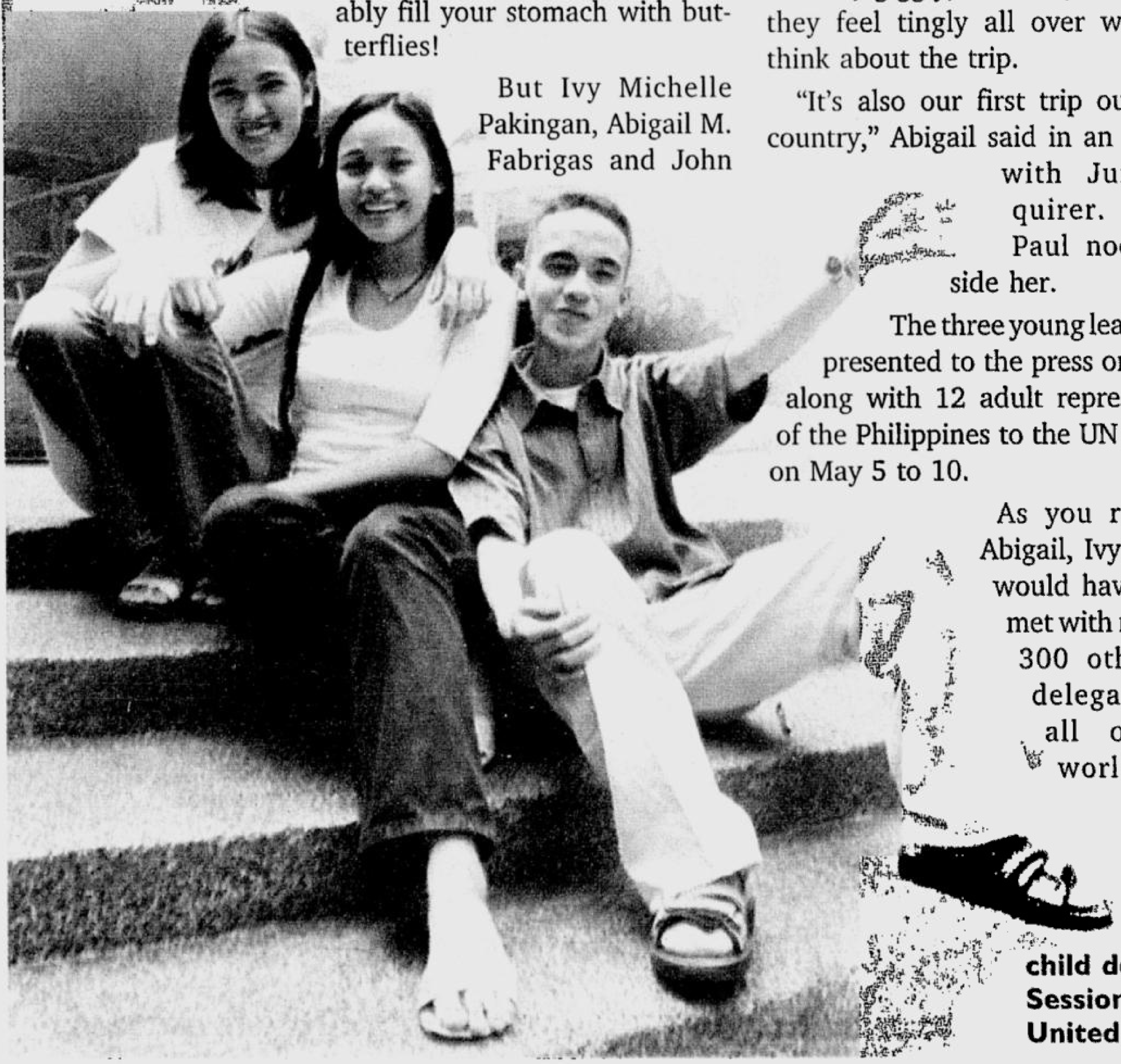
Abigail, 16, and Paul, 17, are not new to this kind of thing. Both are active youth leaders and participated in formulating a document called "Child 21," an action plan to make life better for Filipino kids.

Abigail is from Olongapo City and is a council member of the National Anti-Poverty Commission. On June, she'll be a college freshman at the University of the Philippines

Paul is from Iloilo and was a child commissioner of the NAPC. He studies at the Central Philippine University.

Ivy, on the other hand, found herself in Abigail and Paul's company by a stroke of luck and spunk. She won the

**Meet/**p.11



**OFF TO NEW YORK. Ivy Michelle Pakinggan (left), Abigail M. Fabrigas (center) and John Paul A. Claudio (right) are joining 300 other child delegates all over the world in the UN Special Session on Children at the UN Headquarters in the United States.** ROGER CARPIO

# World Scope

Tokyo, Japan
New York, USA
Sydney, Australia

## Vader Sig g?

A SHOPPER stares as a sci-fi fanatic dressed as Star Wars villain Darth Vader buys action figures from the soon to be released movie Star Wars episode II "Attack of the Clones." The Australian fan is one of 150 people who attended the midnight sale at a local Sydney toy store to be among the first in Australia to purchase the newly released action figures and Star Wars movie memorabilia. Good thing no one mistook him for a life-sized Vader toy! ***AP***

## Inventor's Prize

HALF a million dollars is a lot of money! US Inventor Dean Kamen suddenly found the sum in his bank account when he was awarded the $500,000 Lemelsom-MIT Prize, the world's largest single award for invention. In the file photo, Kamen demonstrates his invention, the Segway Human Transporter. It's a one-person, battery-powered scooter which travels at a top speed of 20 kph, uses gyroscopes to keep it upright and direction is controlled by the rider's shifting weight. ***AP***

## Flower Carpet

Two-year-old Japanese girl Nanae Shoji, standing next to an event staff sprinkling water, admires a flower carpet during the annual event at Miyuki Dori Avenue in Tokyo's Ginza shopping district. It was Greenery Day, a national holiday. Holiday makers enjoyed the 300-meter long flower art created with petals of a total of 200,000 tulips transported earlier in the day from the northern Japanese prefecture of Toyama. ***AP***

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'Rrific Kids
3 Best Featured Kids For 2002
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A P300 Discount Voucher
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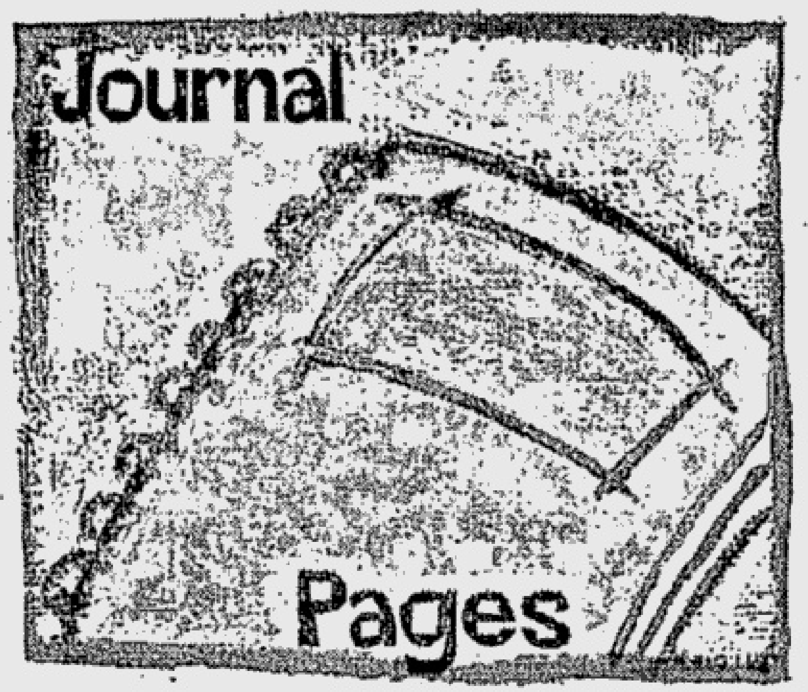
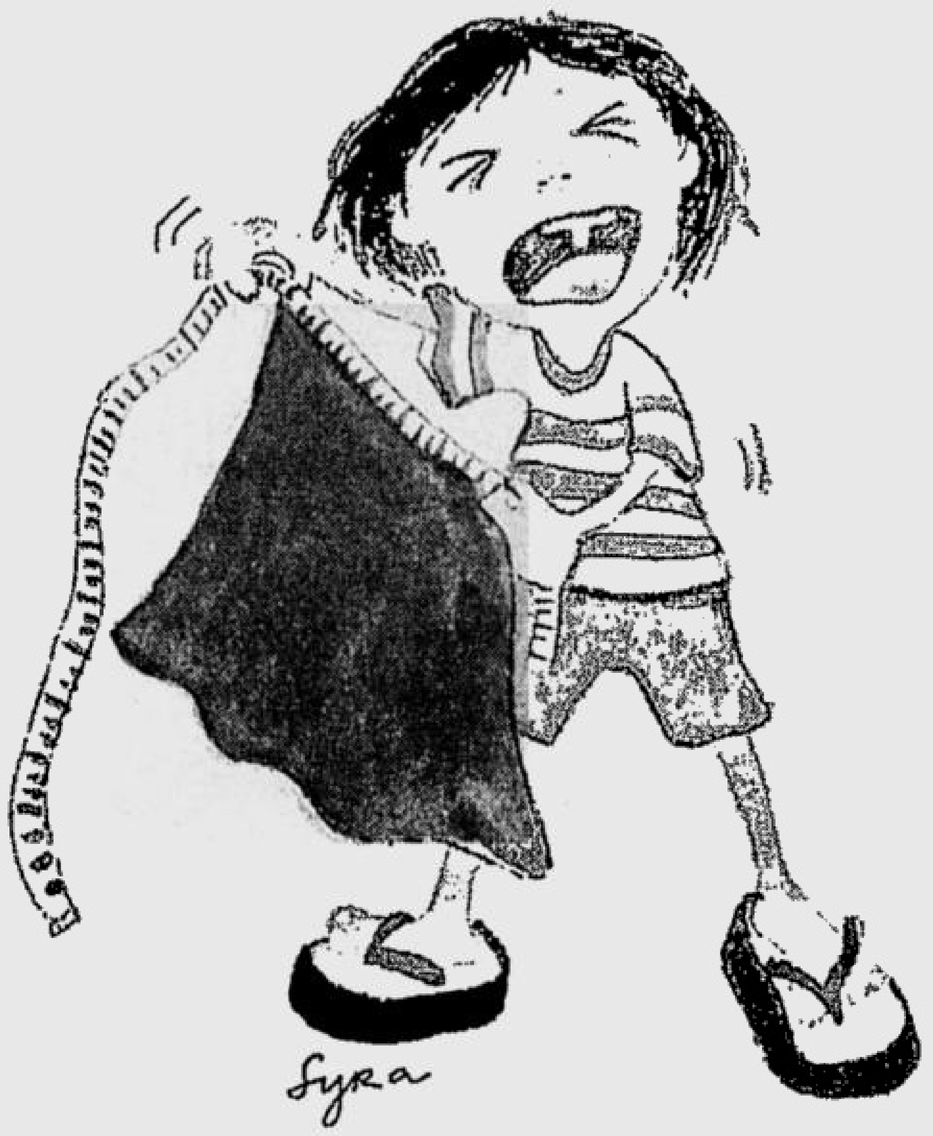
Chosen 'Rrific Kid of the year



# I Already Learned

BY MARIANNE R. MAGGAY
PEMBO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
MAKATI CITY



MY MOTHER once brought me to Guadalupe market to buy my new school uniform. I wasn't such a picky girl then. I didn't give much thought to what I wore. So when the skirt was handed to me, I fitted it, let my mother pay for it, and that was that. After paying, we rushed to our car and went home.

But when we got there, I put on my new uniform again and found that the skirt was a short one. It wasn't at all like my friends' skirts. Soon the school year started and quickly came to pass. All through out the year, I felt uncomfortable wearing the skirt. But what was I to do? It was my own fault.

The next school year came. Again my mother bought me a new skirt for school. I didn't come with her to do this. I was far away in our province on a vacation. I figured she already knew my size. When I came home I found that the skirt she bought was too long, too big and its waistline was some kind of XL size. I cried! Another mistake!

I just gave it to my older sister because it fit her better. I couldn't also blame my mother. In fact, it was my fault again. I had already learned my lesson but I let the history repeat itself. So I just used my own money to buy a new skirt. Whew! It was just right! Not too short, not too long, not so small, not so big. It fit me perfectly! So to all the readers, learn from my mistakes.

### Sound Familiar ?

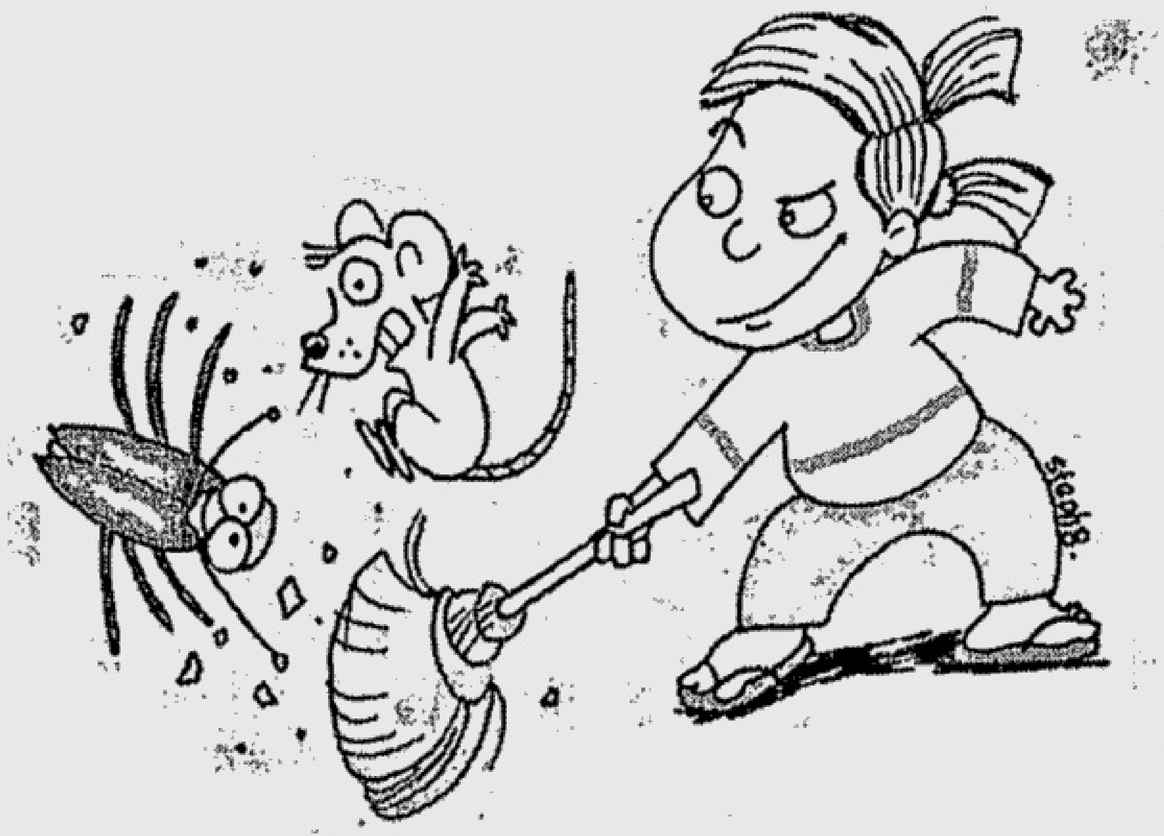
***Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!***

## Straight from JI Readers

You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!

### Paglilinis

Kapag wala akong ginagawa, gusto kong naglilinis ng aming bahay para maiwasan ang pagkakaroon ng mga ipis at daga. Minsan, hindi lang loob ng bahay ang winawalis ko. Kapag inuutusan ako ng aking nanay na linisin ang aming bakuran, sumusunod ako. Nagpapatulong ako sa ate ko. Pagkatapos, nililinis din namin ang mga kanal dahil baka magbara at magkaroon ng dengue ang mga ito. Kaya mga bata, dapat maglinis tayo para maiwasan ang pagkakasakit.—**FRANCES L. VALDERRAMA**, Gr. 3-St. Andrew, Colegio Sta. Isabel of Laguna



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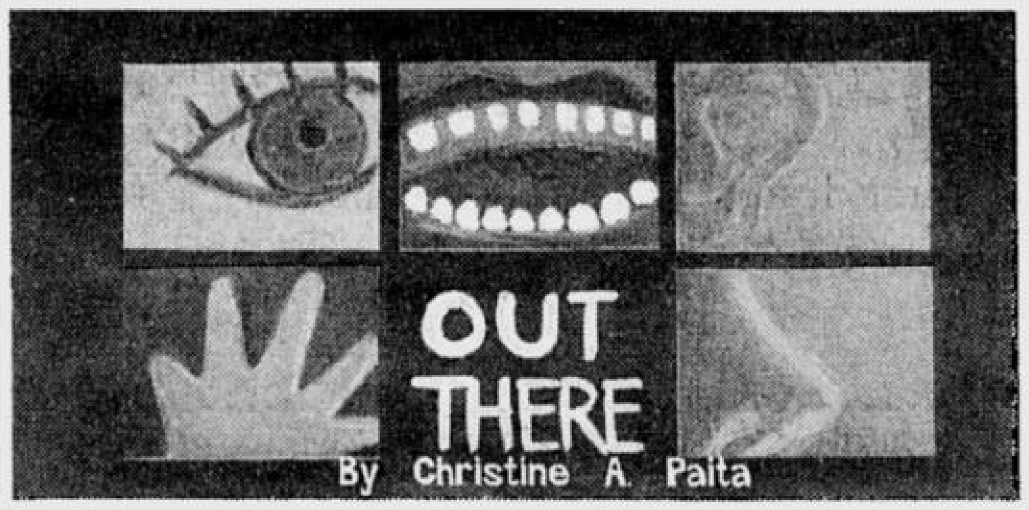


**Got something for Out There?** Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

## Seminar/Workshops

**FABER-CASTELL ART WORKSHOP.** Try out Faber-Castell watercolors, pencils, and crayons in their Summer Art Workshop this May. Workshop is on May 14-15 at the SM Southmall Activity Center and on May 28-29 at the SM Fairview Activity Center, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. The workshop is open to kids ages 8 to 11 years old. For registration, call 361-7931 to 32.

**SCHOOLROOM SUMMER WORKSHOPS.** Check out The Schoolroom's lineup of summer programs for kids: "Three-Ring Circus and "Kids and Castles" for infants and toddlers; "Science Adventure" and "Summer Camp" for 3 to 5-year-olds; and the Get Ahead programs for gifted children ages 3 to 7 years old. Kids and parents can also join Schoolroom's therapy groups. There's yoga and art therapy for kids, a growth group for teenage girls, and the parent-infant play therapy. For more info, call 632-7753, 772-3531, 772-3532, or email TheSchoolroom@attglobal.net.

**ADHD SEMINAR-WORKSHOP.** PsychPros invites everyone to attend its seminar-workshop on Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) entitled, "Empowering the AD/HD and the Family". It will be held on May 23 at the MAB Hall, Ground Flr., Philippine Heart Center, East Avenue, Quezon City. For inquiries and reservations, please call up 928-0878 or 926-6519, or email propsych@edsamail.com.ph.

**GREEN ARTISTS**. Want to learn art and help save the environment at the same time? Join Young Advocates' "Art for Earth's Sake" summer camp on May 15, 16, and 17 at Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac. Learn basic sketching, finger painting, storytelling, *decoupage* and scrapbook design while breathing fresh countryside air! For more info, call Joel at 844-7047 or email young_advocates@hotmail.com.

## Cable Picks

**A TOONY MOTHER'S DAY.** Celebrate Mother's Day with Cartoon Network's showcase of half-hour cartoon shows featuring cartoon land's beloved moms—"Mama" Bunny Bravo, Dexter and Dee Dee's mom, Wilma Flintstone, and Jane Jetson—today, May 11. Spend the tooniest Mother's Day with your mom tomorrow with a three-hour Mother's Day marathon.

**MUMMY WEEK.** It's all about mummies and skeletons this May on National Geographic Channel. Join scientists and professors as they unravel the mystery behind the preserved corpses and ancient bones found in different parts of the world. Catch the chill on the following dates: "The Mummy Road Show", May 21-24 at 9:00 p.m.; "Ice Mummies", Tuesday, May 21; "Child Mummy", Wednesday, May 22; "Unknown Soldier", Thursday, May 23; "Aztec Death", Friday, May 24 at 9:30 p.m.

**LOST CITY.** Visit an old Indian settlement in Peru in "Lost City of Incas Revealed" on the National Geographic Channel. Witness ruins of circular dwellings, funeral towers, water channels, terraces and a pyramid. See other stunning archaeological findings, and learn more about the Incas on Sunday, May 19 at 8:00 p.m.

**FURRY WEDNESDAY**. Witness lovable dogs as they help their masters and entertain an audience with their super-canine skills and talent. Watch "Dogs with Jobs" on May 22 at 8:00 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel.

Bears may be scary but to hunters they're not. Hunters kill bears for their claws, teeth, and fur, even gall bladder. Join the hunt for bear poachers in "Wild Detectives" on Wednesday, May 22 at 8:30 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel.

## Contests

**ROBOT WHIZ.** If you like to tinker with toy robots, this might be your chance to represent the country in the International Robot Olympiad in China! The Philippine Foundation for Science and Technology and FELTA Multi-Media, Inc. invite you to join the "Philippine Robotics Olympiad" (PRO), a competition which offers students the chance to explore the world of robots and the robotic system in the schools. The competition is open to elementary and high school students ages 10 to 16 years old. For details, please contact Ms. Sharon Onda or Ms. Jops Verano at 525-8752, 536-3092 and telefax 525-8418.

**ESSAY/POEM WRITING.** In celebration of its 62nd Anniversary on May 26, the Girl Scouts of the Philippines will hold a nationwide on-the-spot essay/poem writing contest. The contest is open to all Junior, Senior, and Cadet Girl Scouts. GSP will also hold a visual arts activity, open to Twinklers and Stars. The 62 best entries for writing and visual arts will be compiled in a book. For more info call up 523-8331 to 42.

## Events

**BACK-TO-SCHOOL SHOPPING.** Going back to school so soon? Don't fret. The "Balik Eskwela Expo 2002" at the Megatrade Hall in SM Megamall makes it more fun. There will be a workshop on arts and crafts, an on-the-spot painting contest, parlor games, a crayon and coloring activity, and a Li'l Hands workshop (Wall Decorations on Coco Cloth) Plus, get to buy your school things and accessories early at an affordable price. Children ages 5 to 12 years old are invited to join the activities from May 17-19. For more info call up The Next Step at 843-8878, 813-0148, or 893-9729.

**COOL SALE.** Visit Office 1 Superstore's "Cool Back-to-School Sale", and enjoy a 5% discount on all school supplies and over 60% discount on selected items. Hurry, grab your school needs at the following Office 1 branches: Kamagong, Meralco Avenue, and

**Out/** p.5

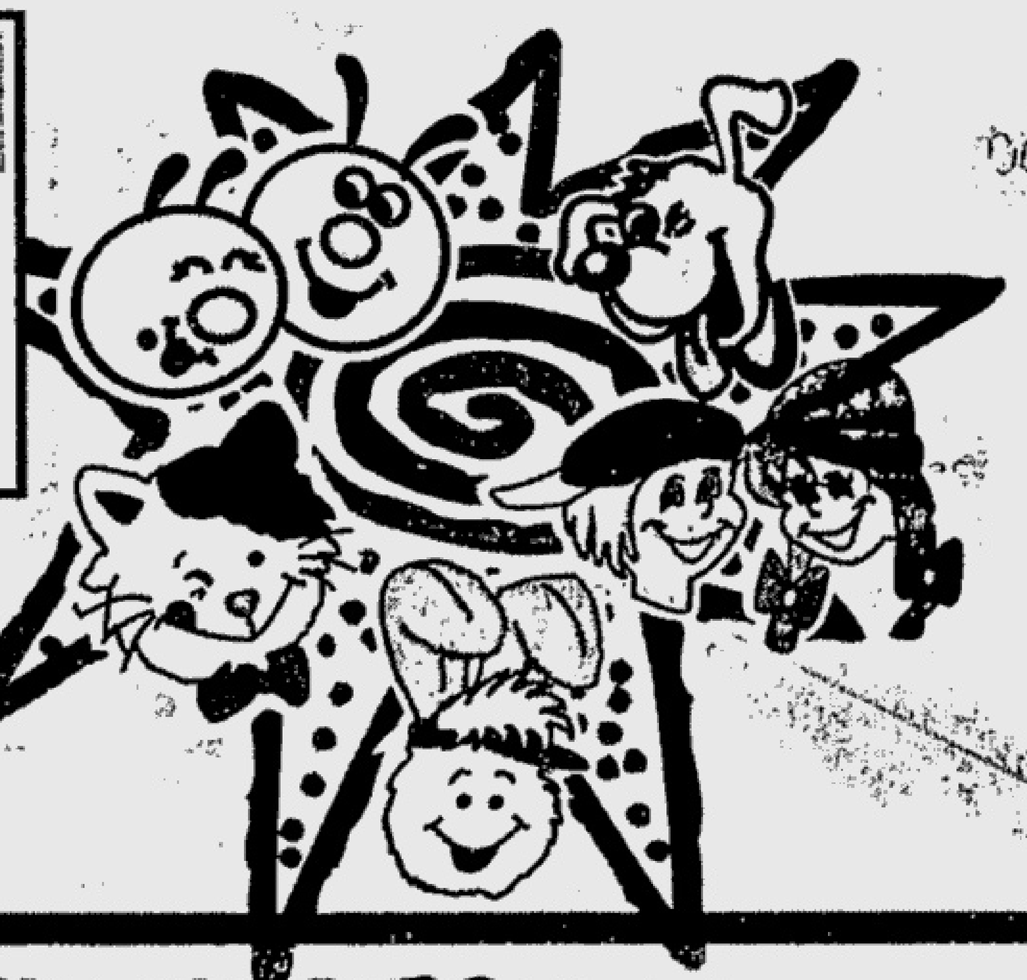
## Out (from page 4)

Quezon Avenue. The sale will run until June 30, 2002.

**SUNDAYS AT MALACAÑANG.** Tired of going to malls on a weekend? Why not visit the Malacañang Gardens on Sunday, and have loads of fun with the following activities: a mass at 9:00 a.m., a mini-show featuring clowns, fun games, and more. There will also be goodies to be given away. For more info, please call Atty. Paul Loveranes (Office of the President) at 736-1171.

11TH LI'L HANDS® CLUB FUNDAY

MAY 18, 2002 AT THE
ESKWELA EXPO 2002
MEGATRADE HALL 3,
SM MEGAMALL



HOW TO JOIN:
1. PRESENT YOUR LI'L HANDS CLUB I.D.
2.ONLY THE FIRST 30 ON-SITE REGISTRANTS WILL BE ALLOWED TO JOIN PER CATEGORY.

*REGISTRATION TIME: 10 AM TO 12 NN
ALL WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE CERTIFICATES AND GIFT PACKS.

FUN ACTIVITIES
- PARLOR GAMES
- RAFFLE DRAW
- SPECIAL NUMBERS
- MR. MONGOL & MS. CRAYOLA MASCOT APPEARANCE
- VARIOUS ARTS & CRAFTS DEMOS

*FREE ENTRANCE TO ALL LI'L HANDS CLUB MEMBERS

FREE ARTS AND CRAFTS WORKSHOP

WORKSHOP TITLE
FOR TODDLERS : STORYTELLING WORKSHOP

FOR AGES 4 TO 6 : CRAYOLA
"COLORFUL NIGHT PORTRAIT"

FOR AGES 7 TO 9 : LI'L HANDS
"SUMMER MOBILE CRAFT"

FOR AGES 10 TO 12 : SANFORD/AMSPEC BOND PAPER
"FESTIVAL MASK"

FOR AGES 13 AND UP : MONGOL/LOTUS
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FOR or By KIDS

**Poetry by Migs Villanueva**
**Illustration by Stephanie Bravo**

# At Lolo's Farm

Here we are, on Lolo's farm!
Let's roam and run and play.
Let's climb up to the hilltop
In the wind we all will sway.

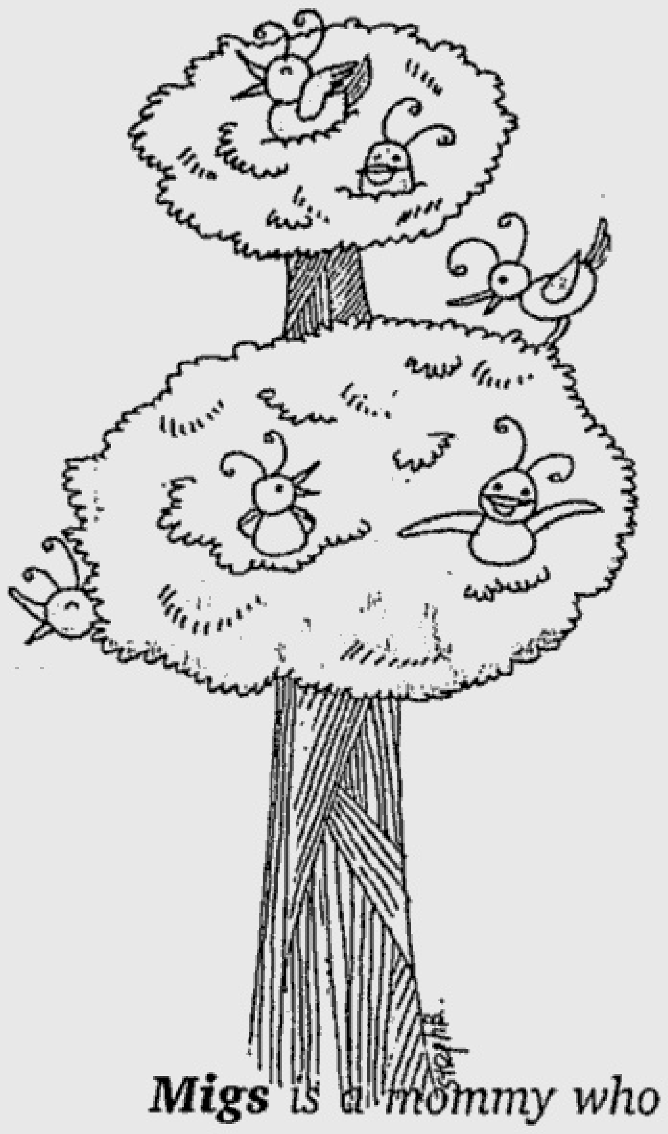
Let's climb the biggest mango tree
And hunt for little nests
Where the brown Mommy mayas
Lay their little eggs to rest.

Let's cut some strips of bamboo
And form it to a kite
Paste bits of paper, tie a string,
And fly it with all might.

Let's make believe we're pirates
Sweet potatoes are our loot
With Lolo as our Captain
We'll dig from underfoot.

Let's jump into the river
Let's ride the backs of cows
And when the sun sets just right,
We'll run back to the house.

Let's not forget the Kapre
Who sits on trees at night
Let's all be very careful
When we catch fireflies tonight.



Science
Math

# Summer

Aren't we glad that time is up
For schoolwork that's so tough?
The clock's alarm is finally off
That's really quite enough!
Let's play pretend, you'll be an elf
And I'll just be myself.
We'll stick the books into a shelf
That we'll leave by itself.
It's summer time, it's time to laugh
For two months and a half!
Have fun all day and then stay up
Until we huff and puff!
There's no more cause to be so gruff.
For this is quite the stuff
Of playing house or blind man's bluff
Or games that are quite rough!

# Are We There Yet?

Daddy, are we there yet?
We've been driving for so long!
Are you really, really sure
This road we're on ain't wrong?

You didn't say this trip would take
As long as California.
I should have brought a book to read
Like the *Chronicles of Narnia*.

Mommy, are we there yet?
I'm tired of counting cows.
This trip's too long; why is that beach
Way too far from our house?

I wish I were like Harry
Who has a magic potion
That will make us grow wings
To fly to our destination.

Daddy, are we there yet?
And is that the sea I see?
Oh, Mommy, do you see that?
That's where we want to be!

***Migs** is a mommy who paints and writes stories.* ***Steph** is JI's favorite artist.*

# Canon • JUNIORINQUIRER Give You a Free Camera

**Go Kids!** Guess what BF means when Canon Camera and the Junior Inquirer give you. BF is for "Best Friend!" Yup, that reliable camera companion called BF 800 will soon be accompanying you to your wet and wild summer outings. It is so easy to operate, Mom and Dad would trust you to operate this smart Canon Camera all by yourself. But, wait how do you get yourself one? Read on and learn how fun vacation could be by simply showing a little of those killer smiles and matching drop-dead looks.

## STEP 1 Click Your Worries [illegible]

Young and on vacation, none could be more fun than that. Not if you don't take pictures often enough. So, shoot shoot and shoot all you like. Ask Mom and Dad never to forget the camera each time you go out. Make every member of the family ready to take pictures of each other. And as you pile your pile of beautiful photos go up, we're sure there are more than enough to send to Junior Inquirer and win for your Best friend Canon BF 800.

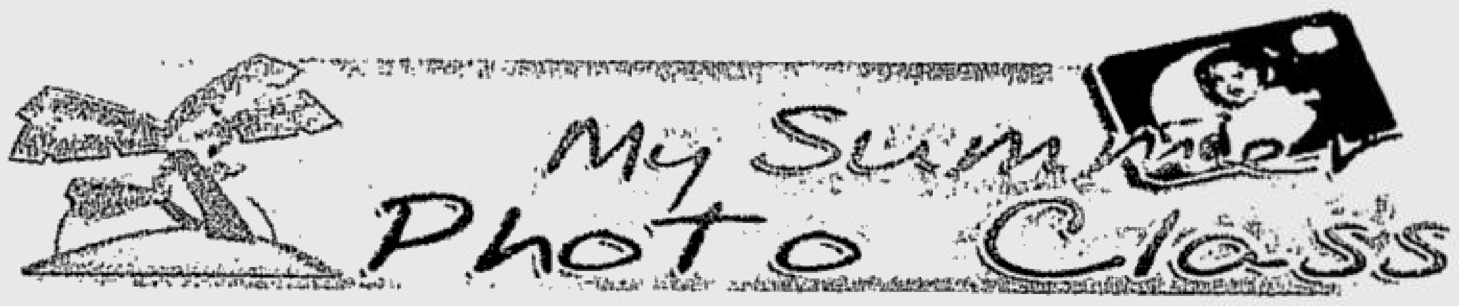
## STEP 2 Theme Song

You have one as favorite don't you? You like it so much, you call it your theme song. But no, Canon and Junior Inquirer are not asking you to sing. From your beautiful pictures above, do a match with each one of the descriptions (themes) in the announcements below. Yes, like picking a theme song to sing to each of your photos.

## STEP 3 Tell me, tell me

After making the match, write a short story describing your photo. Put everything in an envelope with your name, address, telephone number, signature, entry date and theme. If you like, you could include a 2 x 2 photo of yourself. Now, ask Mom or Dad to send all these to Junior Inquirer very early before the scheduled deadlines (see the announcement). If your pictures make it to the deadlines and we think they most beautifully describe the "Theme songs" we gave - you bet, you've just won for yourself Best Friend BF 800!

So what are you still waiting for? Go out there with your camera and...one, two, three...smile! This summer, make your vacation the next school opening's talk of the class by taking home to Mom and Dad your new Canon BF 800 Camera.



## My Summer Photo Class

Hi I'm Patrick. Like all of you out there today, I'm on vacation. The boredom, the heat (not to mention Mom's impatience over us glued all day to the television) have all but driven every kid in our block to every summer workshop their parents have heard of. There are those who enrolled in dance lessons, some in painting sessions, while still a few others are out there cooking something.

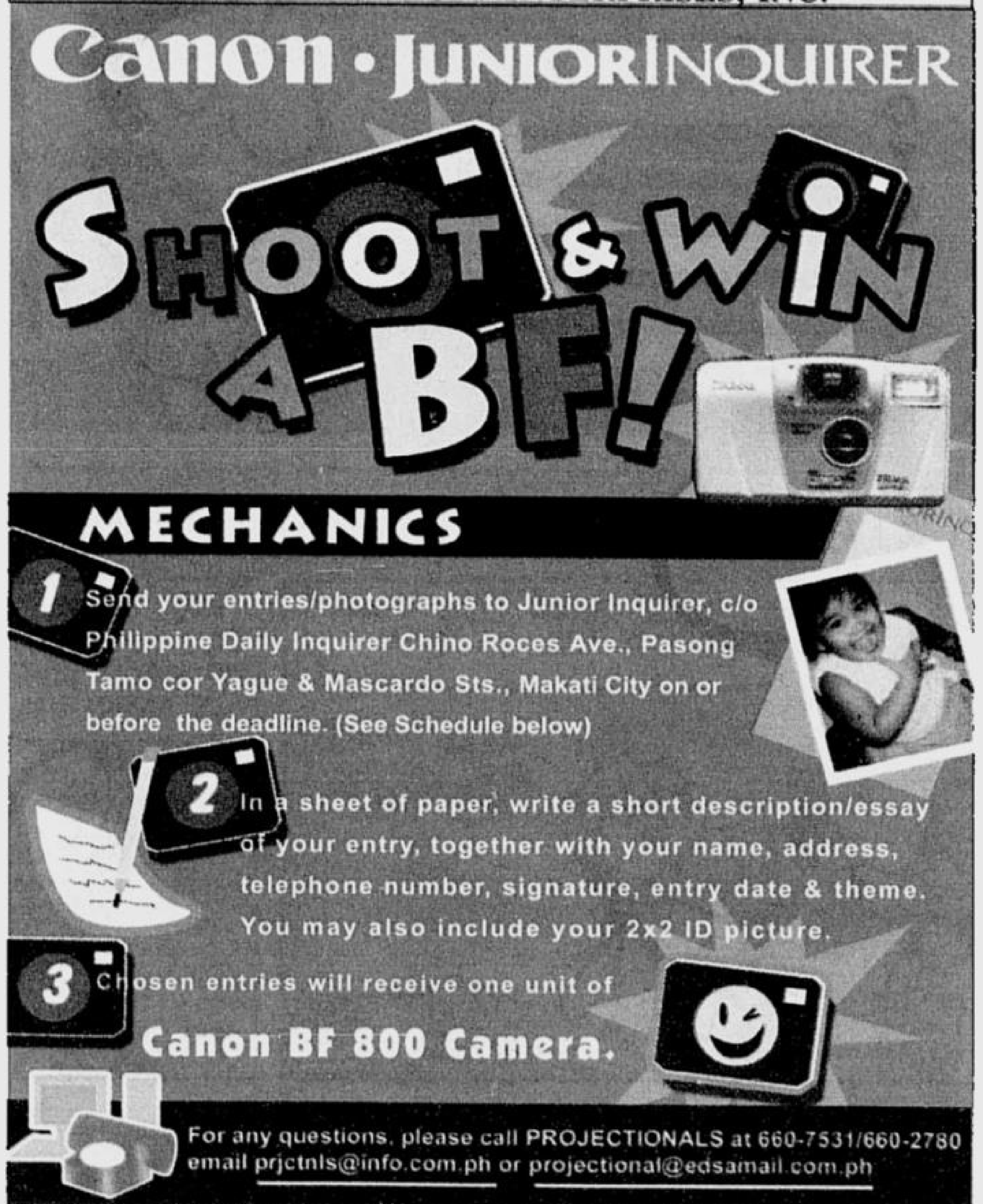
Yes, yes! That's the best mix of art and technology you'll ever hear this summer. And it's all free to a limited slots of 50 participants! There are three sessions, each with very interesting descriptions. Hack these: Session 1 - Introduction to Photography, Session 2 - Shooting Styles and Techniques, and Session 3 - Children's Paintography.

The first session is about the basic Do's & Don'ts of shooting. The second covers the different ways you can frame your subjects and pitfalls you can avoid. And lastly, I'm sure you won't learn this elsewhere: painting your pictures for effect with a little help from a famous professional photographer.

It surely is going to be the biggest .photo class for kids this summer as Junior Inquirer also brings together its trusted children's friends to make it all possible. Lactum, Kids at Work, Hen-lin, Kameraworld and Nestle Chocolait will all be there to make the experience all the more fun and exciting.

So if you're anywhere from seven to 12 years old, ask Mom and Dad to pay Canon Camera Showroom a visit in SM Mega mall. Not only can you learn more about this workshop but treat the whole family as well to the latest line-up of Canon Cameras.

SUPER EAST ASIA ENTERPRISES, INC.



**MECHANICS**

1 Send your entries/photographs to Junior Inquirer, c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer Chino Roces Ave., Pasong Tamo cor Yague & Mascardo Sts., Makati City on or before the deadline. (See Schedule below)

2 In a sheet of paper, write a short description/essay of your entry, together with your name, address, telephone number, signature, entry date & theme. You may also include your 2x2 ID picture.

3 Chosen entries will receive one unit of **Canon BF 800 Camera.**

For any questions, please call PROJECTIONALS at 660-7531/660-2780 email prjctnls@info.com.ph or projectional@edsamail.com.ph

| DEADLINE OF ENTRIES | PUBLICATION DATE | THEME |
|---|---|---|
| May 10 | May 18 | Fun in the Sun |
| May 17 | May 25 | Party Bloopers |
| May 24 | June 1 | Me and my Junior Inquirer |
| June 1 | June 8 | Me and my dad |
| June 7 | June 15 | Best friends in school |
| June 14 | June 22 | Thing I love most |
| June 21 | June 29 | Happy together |
| June 28 | July 6 | I love my mom |
| July 5 | July 13 | Kids@work |

# THE LUNCH BOX

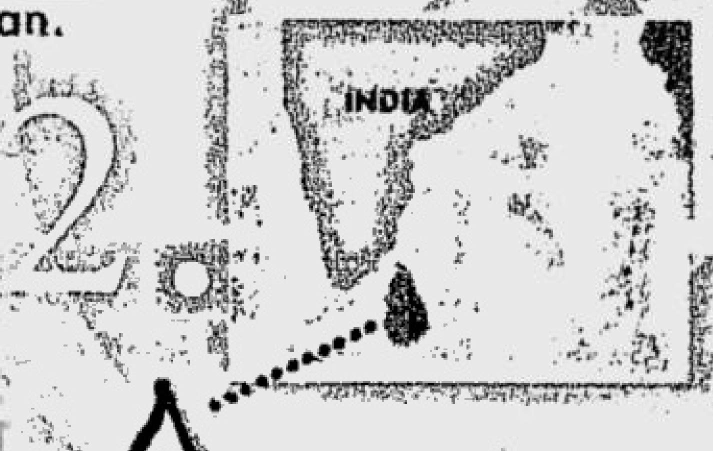
by Katrina B. Villa

## ON YOUR MAP, GET SET...

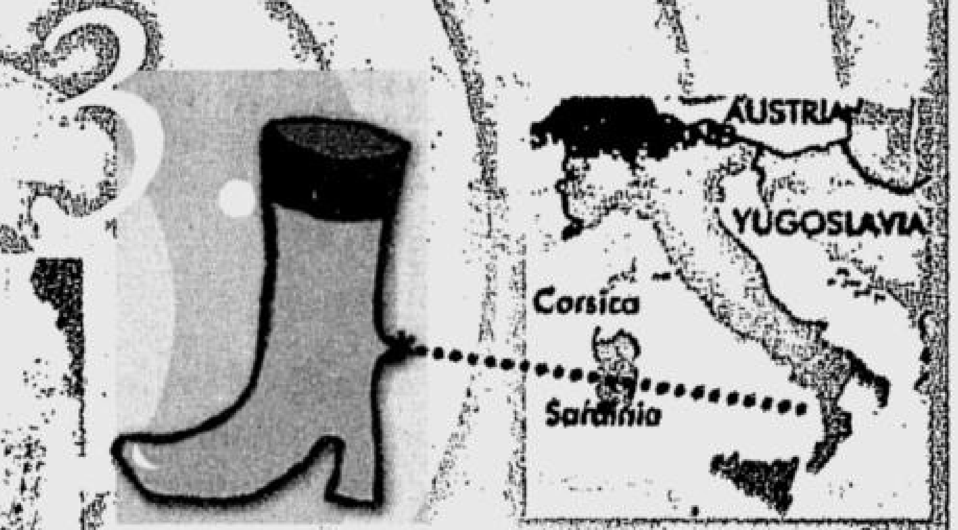
Take out your map or globe and find these fun-shaped countries!

1.
ANGOLA
NAMIBIA
BOTSWANA
ZIMBABWE

This country in Africa is shaped like a kidney-bean.



This is a teardrop-shaped country near India.


3.
AUSTRIA
YUGOSLAVIA
Corsica
Sardinia

This European country is shaped like a boot.

Answers: 1. Zambia 2. Sri Lanka 3. Italy

## meet mr. ROY G. BIV

Raindrops act as tiny prisms that split white light into the different colors in the spectrum. That's why you see rainbows in the sky after a rainstorm. Roy Biv isn't an actual person, but his name will help you remember the colors of the rainbow. Can you fill in the blanks below?

R ______
O ______
Y ______
G ______
B ______
I ______
V ______

Answers: Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, Violet

answer: Sudan

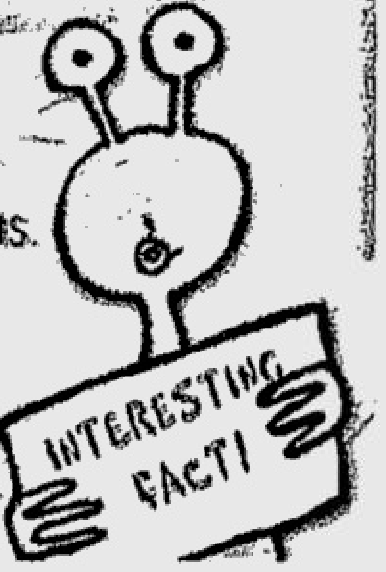
visit arabia.com

There are more pyramids in this country than in Egypt.

BREAK THE CODE TO FIND OUT WHAT IT IS.

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
19 21 4 1 14

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z


INTERESTING FACT!

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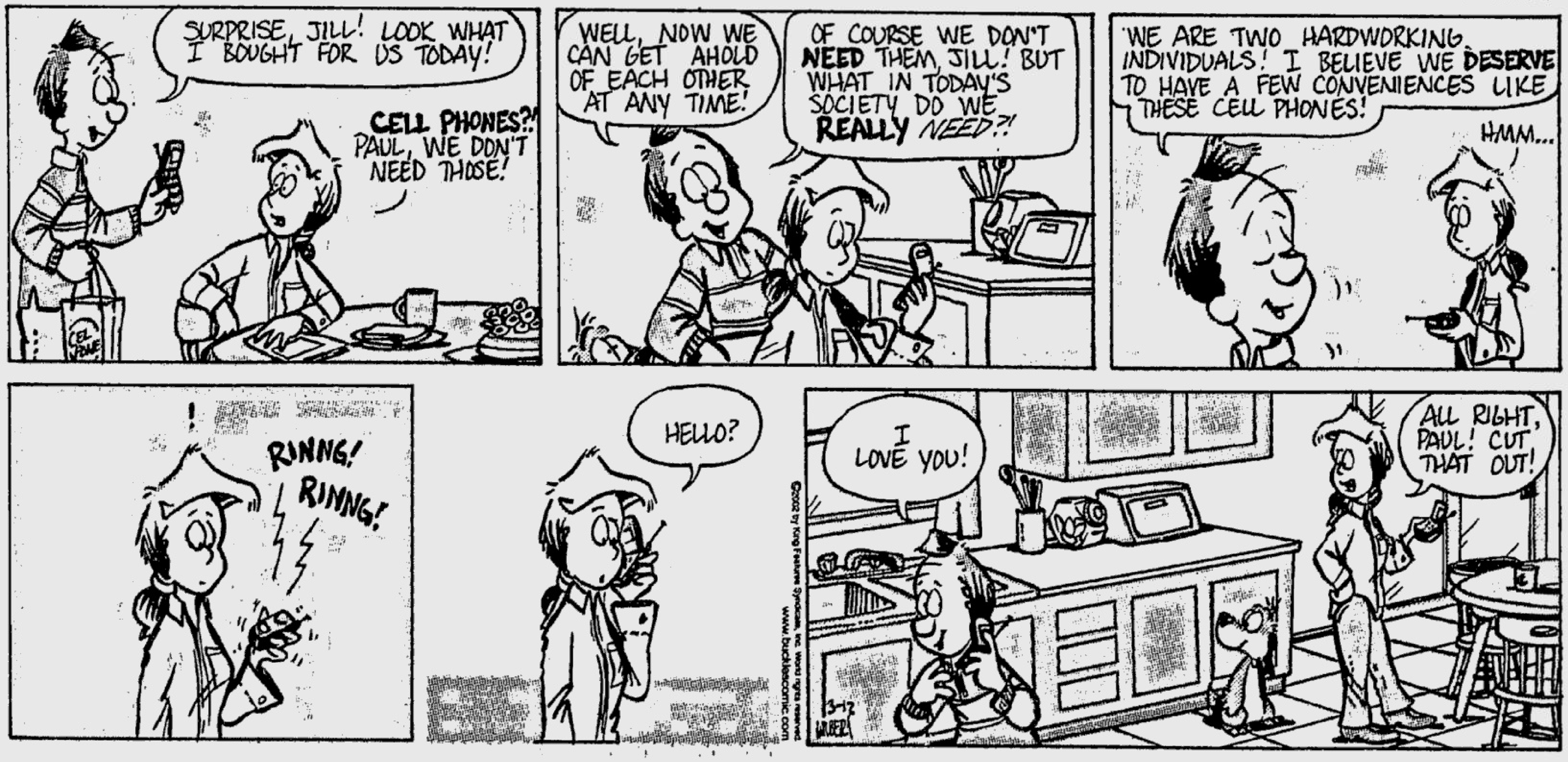
## BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT


SURPRISE, JILL! LOOK WHAT I BOUGHT FOR US TODAY!
CELL PHONES?! PAUL, WE DON'T NEED THOSE!
CEL PHONE
WELL, NOW WE CAN GET AHOLD OF EACH OTHER AT ANY TIME!
OF COURSE WE DON'T NEED THEM, JILL! BUT WHAT IN TODAY'S SOCIETY DO WE REALLY NEED?!
WE ARE TWO HARDWORKING INDIVIDUALS! I BELIEVE WE DESERVE TO HAVE A FEW CONVENIENCES LIKE THESE CELL PHONES!
HMM...
!
RINNG! RINNG!
HELLO?
I LOVE YOU!
ALL RIGHT, PAUL! CUT THAT OUT!

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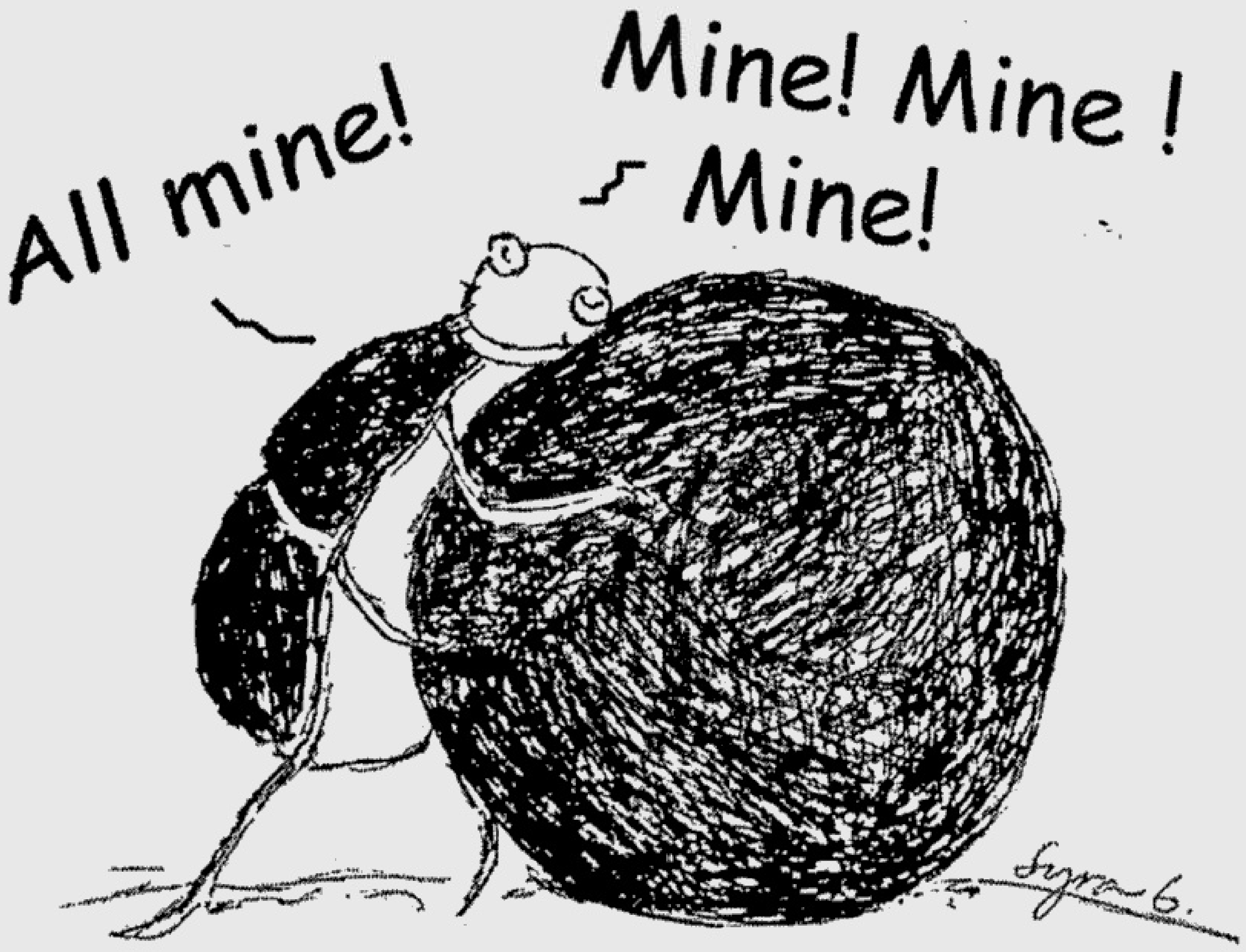
# Super Mommies (in Nature)

*IT'S Mother's Day tomorrow! Make sure you let your mom know how special you think she is. Speaking of special, exceptional and wow, here are some mommies in the animal kingdom who are just the tops and some which are, well, we'll let you be the judge! And the winners are...*


All mine!
Mine! Mine! Mine!

### Perfect Provider Award

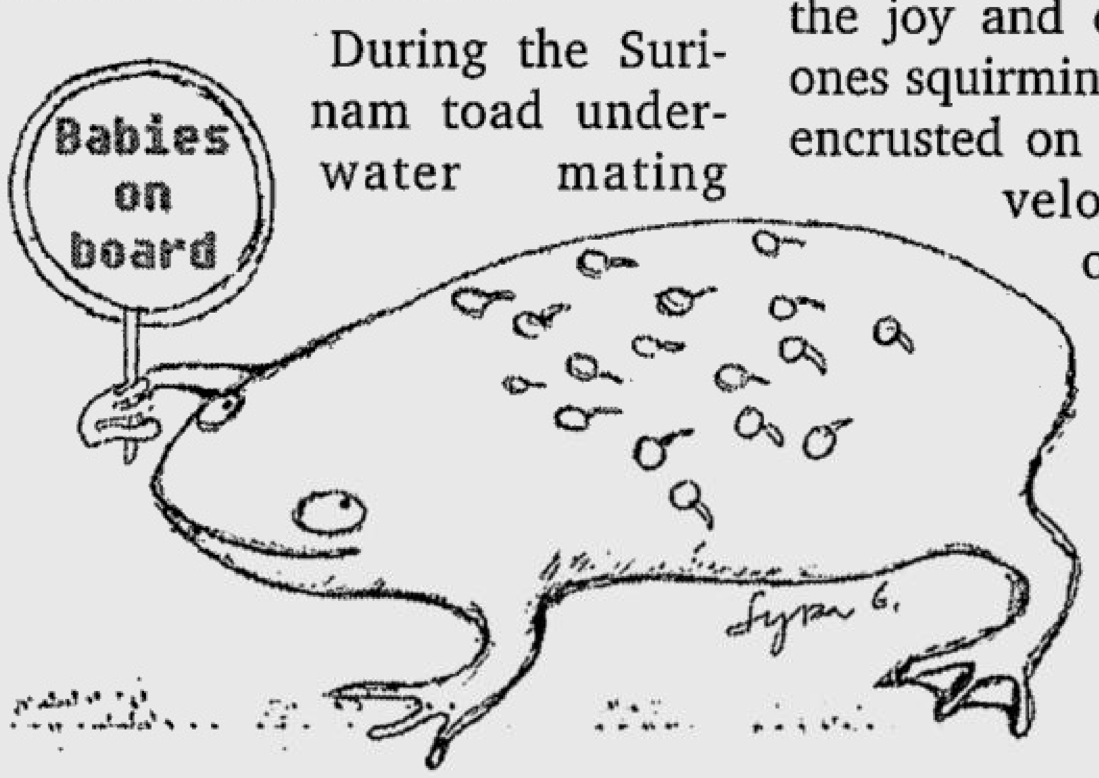
*Winner: Dung Beetle*

The dung beetle mother lays her eggs in a giant ball of dung, nearly 50 times her size, constructed by her mate. With a careful eye, she guards the brood ball for up to 12 weeks. Slowly, the eggs develop into larvae, which feast upon the dung delicacy from the inside out. Once the babes reach the pupa stage, they emerge victorious from their den of dung.

### Heaviest Load Award

*Winner: Surinam Toad*

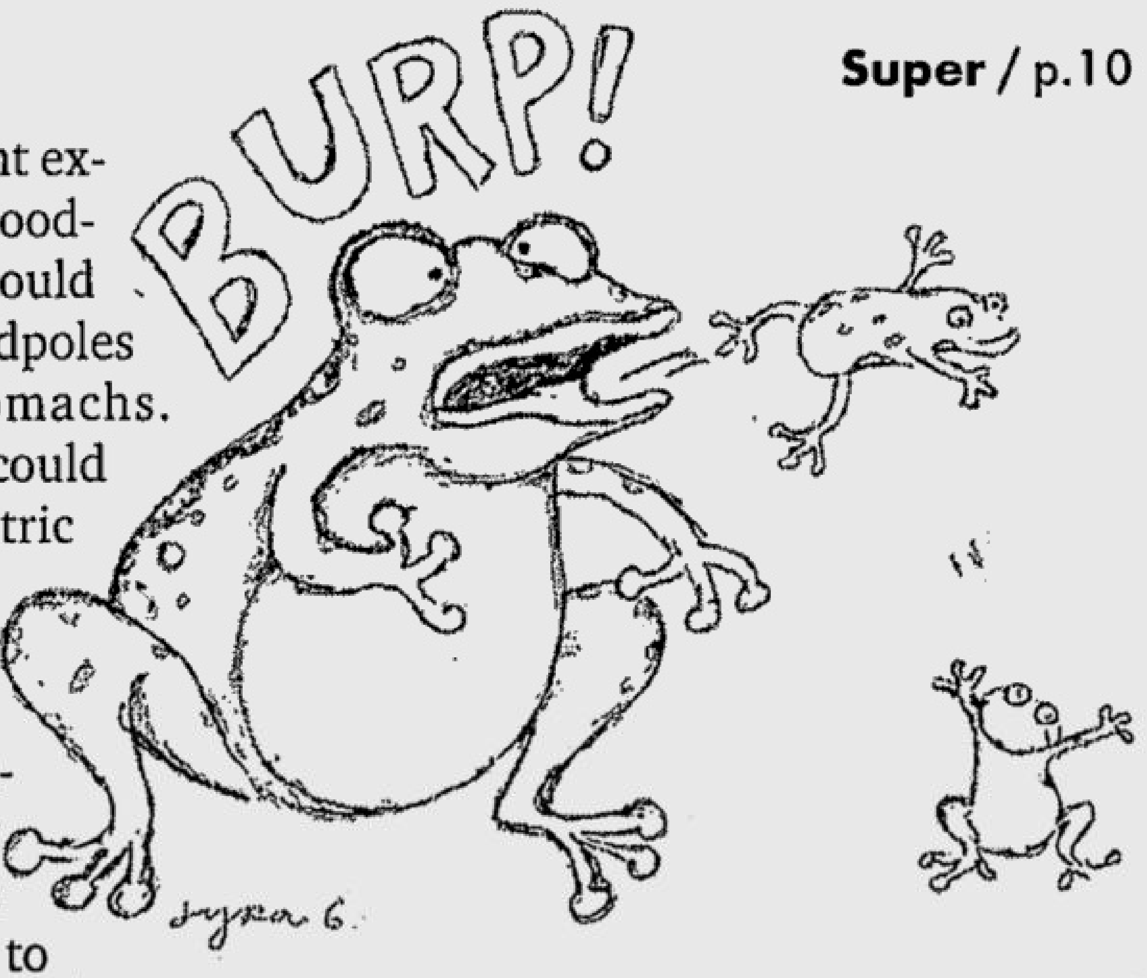
During the Surinam toad underwater mating ritual, dad presses the fertilized eggs onto mom's back where spongy pockets grow up around each one. Just like a mammal, the Surinam toad mom experiences the joy and discomfort of little ones squirming as they develop – encrusted on her back. The developing babies hold onto mom all the way through the tadpole stage and the metamorphosis into froglets, a process that takes nearly 90 days.



### Most Bloated Belly Award

*Winner: Gastric Brooding Frog*

Before they went extinct, the gastric brooding frog females would brood up to 30 tadpoles inside their stomachs. Somehow mom could turn off her gastric juices, foregoing food during her eight-week pregnancy. Without incoming food, the little ones would have to live off their own yolk sac. By the time mom's gestation neared its end, her stomach had become so bloated that her lungs couldn't fully inflate. Mom would introduce the baby frogs to the world by opening her mouth and burping them up.



### Avoiding Responsibility

*Winner: Brown-Headed Cowbird*

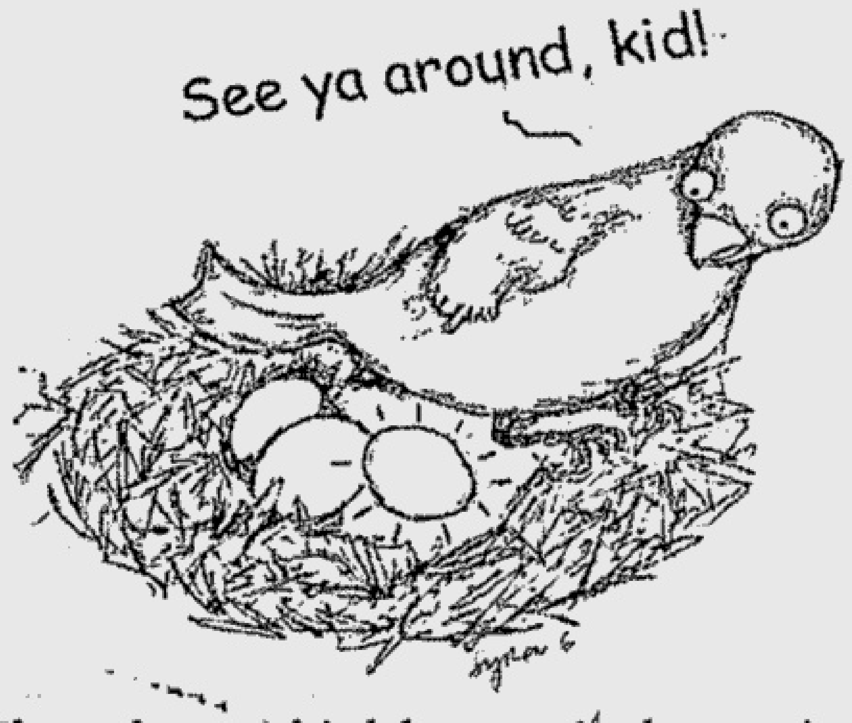
The sneaky brown-headed cowbird mothers lay their eggs in other species' nests, leaving the responsibility of raising their young to someone else. This allows the females to lay up to 40 eggs per season.

After choosing an unsuspecting victim, the female cowbird lurks around until the foster mom leaves her nest.

**Super** / p.10

# Super Mommies (in Nature)

from page 9

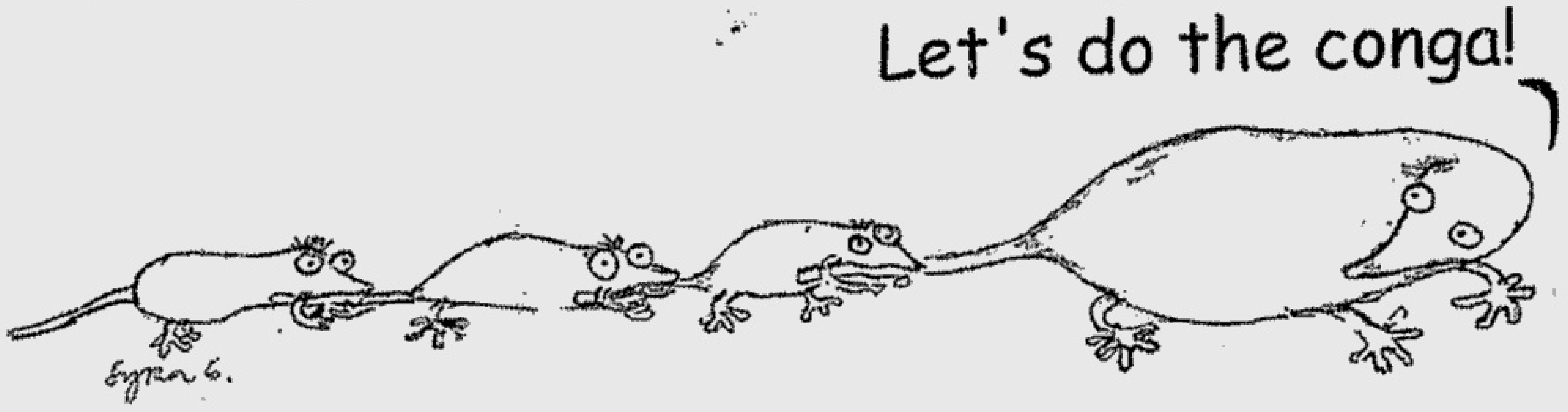

See ya around, kid!

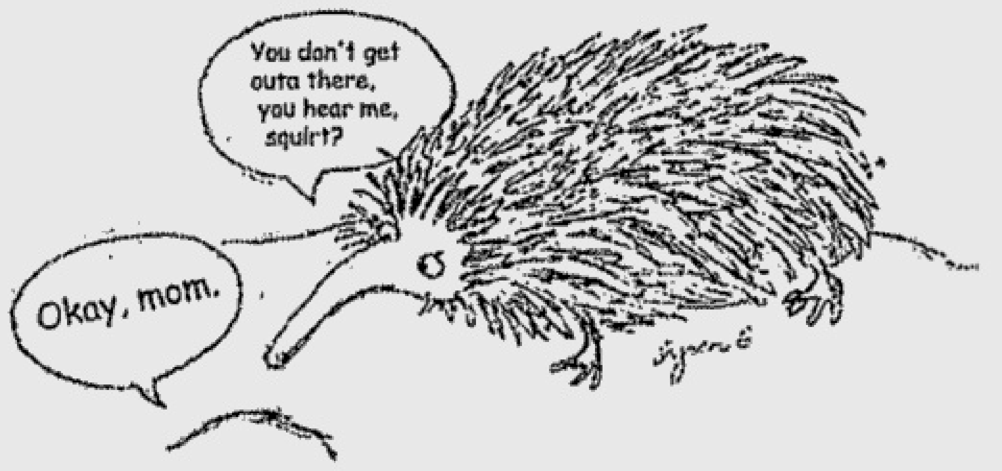
Then the cowbird lays a single egg in the nest and ditches one of the eggs already there. Taking after mom's unscrupulous nature, cowbird nestlings squawk loudly to demand food at the expense of other chicks and sometimes nudge their foster siblings out of the nest:

### Leading by Example Medal

*Winner: White-Toothed Shrew*

When young shrews, tiny mammals with pointy snouts, first venture out with their mother, they form a long caravan, each baby clinging tenaciously with their sharp teeth to the rump in front of them. Mother uses the caravan journeys to show her youngsters the surrounding countryside and teach them how to hunt. Austrian shrew biologist Werner Haberl once removed the mother from a shrew caravan, and the little one left without a rump to cling to simply grabbed hold of the last baby's in line creating a circle. After a while, the youngsters finally realized they weren't getting anywhere, but clearly these little ones are helpless without guidance from mom.


Let's do the conga!


You don't get outa there, you hear me, squirt?
Okay, mom.

### Keeping the Kids in Their Place Award

*Winner: Short-Beaked Echidna*

Australia's short-beaked echidna resembles a cross between a porcupine and an anteater. The echidna mom lays one grape-sized, leathery egg straight into her own pouch. After 10 days, the embryonic runt (called a puggle) hatches – pink, hairless and spine-free – and slurps milk from mom. Mom seems the most gracious hostess until her little bundle of joy develops its spine 50 days later. Mom immediately ejects the babe from her pouch and buries the puggle underground. She only comes to visit every five days and each time she leaves, she buries her toddler well. When the echidna reaches seven months of age, mom offers a farewell suckle, leaves the burrow entrance open and is never heard from again. ***All facts are from www.discovery.com***

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Thinkathon

BY BONG BARRAMEDA

# WHERE'S MOMMY?

**LISTED on the left column are 15 baby animals in search of their respective mothers who are "lost" somewhere in the right column. Can you reunite each pair in celebration of Mother's Day? (To help you out, we've indicated what kind of creature/s each mother is.)**

____ 1. duckling

____ 2. chick

____ 3. piglet

____ 4. gosling

____ 5. kitten

____ 6. fledgling

____ 7. puppy

____ 8. lamb

____ 9. cub

____ 10. fawn

____ 11. foal

____ 12. kid

____ 13. calf

____ 14. cygnet

____ 15. joey

A. queen (*cat*)

B. doe (*deer/rabbit*)

C. ewe (*sheep*)

D. nanny (*goat*)

E. hen (*chicken*)

F. flyer (*kangaroo*)

G. duck (*duck*)

H. cow (*cattle/elephant/whale*)

I. bird (*bird*)

J. mare (*horse*)

K. sow (*pig*)

L. lioness (*lion/tiger/bear*)

M. pen (*swan*)

N. bitch (*wolf/dog*)

O. goose (*goose*)

**Answers :**

1. G 6. I 11. J
2. E 7. N 12. D
3. K 8. C 13. H
4. O 9. L 14. M
5. A 10.B 15. F

**Ratings :**

superbrain!
**11-2**

excellent!
**8 - 10**

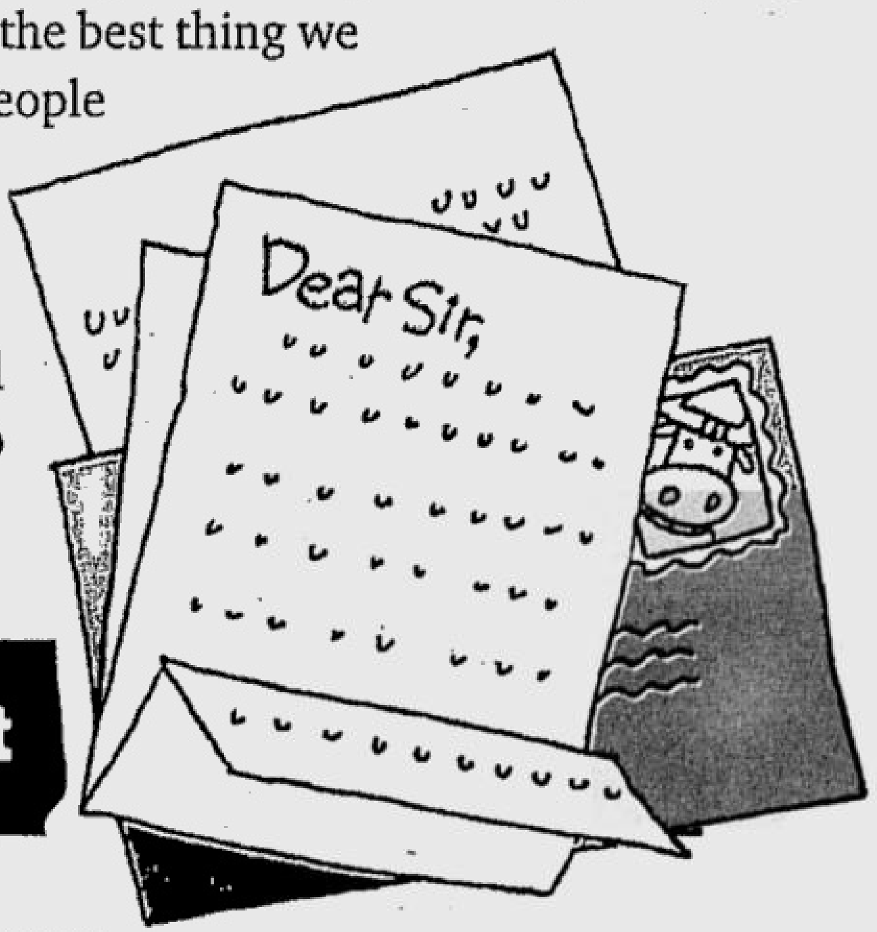
good!
**5 - 9**

# Meet Your Reps! ( From page 1)

chance to go to the UN through the UN Children's Fund, Levis and MTV's Speak Your Mind Campaign. The question was "How would you make the world a better place for young people?"

### New at This

Ivy's winning answer was "I would make the world a better place for young people by launching a literary campaign. Education, after all, is the best thing we can give the young people of today. If they become aware of their surroundings and responsibilities, they will be more likely to avoid the mistakes that the generation before them has committed."



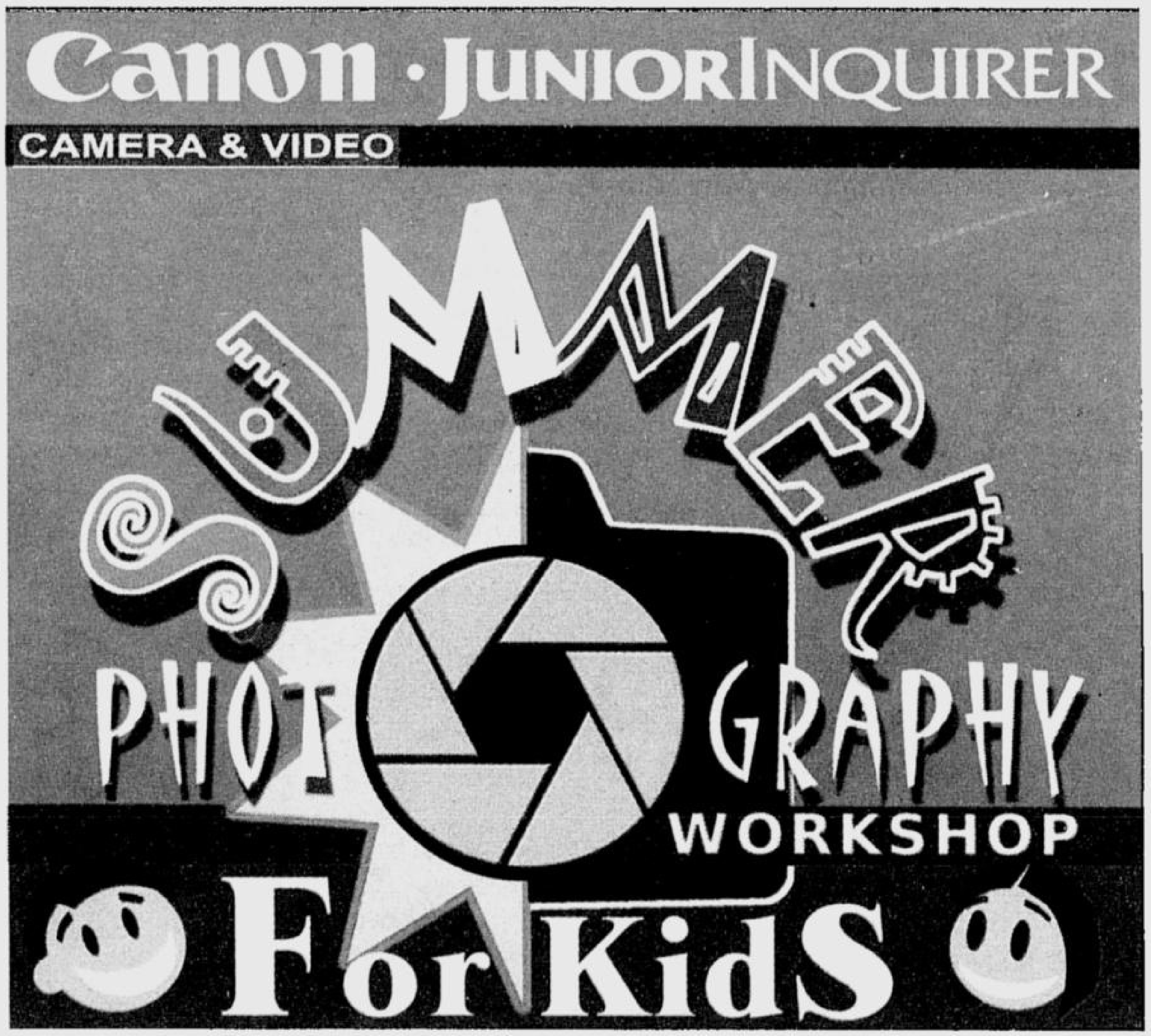
"I'm really excited. I didn't think I'd ever be chosen," Ivy told JI before leaving for New York. "I am very proud and honored to be chosen to be a part of the Asian Youth Charter to represent the Philippines. I know that I can make a difference in the world by working together with the other Asian Delegates on the Asian Charter."

Meet/ p.12

## "Kulit" List

HEY KIDS! Twelve grown-ups are also attending the UN General Assemby on your behalf. Post this list in your school bulletin board so your school knows who to go to when you want to voice your concerns as children with rights! Maybe you can also ask your teacher to invite one of them to speak in school about their experience in the UN General Assembly.

1. Head of Delegation: **Hon. Corazon Juliano N. Soliman** - Secretary, Department of Social Welfare and Development
2. **Hon. Hernando B. Perez** - Secretary, Department of Justice
3. **Hon. Augusto B. Santos** - Deputy Director General, National Economic and Development Authority
4. **Hon. Rodolfo Bacani** - District of Manila Representative, Philippine Congress
5. **Hon. Jose L. Atienza, Jr.** – Mayor, City of Manila
6. **Judge Nimfa Vilches** – Branch 48, Manila Regional Trial Court
7. **Hon. Rosalinda Tirona** – Asst. Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs
8. **Hon. Cecilia C. Yangco** – Asst. Secretary, DSWD
9. **Ms Juliet H. Villegas** – DSWD
10. **Ms Elena S. Caraballo** – Executive Director, Council for the Welfare of Children
11. **Dr. J. Prospero de Vera** – Office of Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, Jr., Senate of the Philippines
12. **Ms Angela Maria L. Pangan** – NORFIL Foundation



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3. Workshop is provided for free limited to fifty(50) registrants per session. Registrants from 51 up shall form part of the waiting list.
4. Registrants in the waiting list shall be notified accordingly for any vacancy or may proceed to the venue as scheduled However, slot/s are not guaranteed.
5. Qualified participants are required to bring their own camera, preferably Canon
6. Only those who complete the three sessions will be given a Seminar Certificate.

For Inquiries, call PROJECTIONALS 660-7531 / 6602780

# Meet Your Reps!

( From page 11)

Ivy is an incoming Communication Arts junior at the University of Sto. Tomas. She likes writing stories, reading books and watching movies.

Mr. Terrel Hill, UNICEF's representative in the Philippines told JI he has great faith in Abigail, Ivy and Paul and that the three kids have much to share to their fellow child delegates. Mr. Hill will be going with the Philippine delegation to New York.

## Home Work

But happens when they get back?

"I'm planning to launch a room-to-room information campaign in my school when I get home, Paul said.

Abigail said she'd continue offering her services as a youth leader to different groups that need help. "I will continue to be an advocate for children's rights," she said.

Shy but earnest, Ivy admitted that her immediate plans don't sound as important or impressive as Abigail's and Paul's. But she thinks that the best she can do is go back to school, study hard and continue to teach kids in her community about the value of reading and writing.

"I know it's a small and simple start," Ivy said. "But I know it will make a difference."

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